

1307.6 - Tasmanian State and Regional Indicators, Mar 2008

Previous ISSUE Released at 11:30 AM (CANBERRA TIME) 30/04/2008

Summary

Contents

CONTENTS



In this Issue

30/04/08 | Tasmanian State and Regional Indicators provides a summary of Tasmanian statistical information and is released on a quarterly basis. New topics in this release are: **Population, Family and Community, and Household Economic Resources**. Education, Housing & Construction and Transport are topics planned for the next release in July 2008. Further topics will be added in future releases throughout 2008.



Labour

Includes: **Labour Force Status, Employment, Unemployment, Underemployment, Hours Worked, Average Weekly Earnings, Wage Price Index, Wage and Salary Earner Incomes**

31/01/08 | The annual average size of the labour force in Tasmania continued to grow steadily over the years 2002-03 to 2005-06, but decreased again slightly in 2006-07 to 238,000.



Economic Activity

Includes: **Gross State Product, Capital Expenditure, Consumer Price Index, House Price Index, Industry Value Added, Housing Finance, International Trade, Motor Vehicle Sales**

31/01/08 | Tasmania's Gross State Product (GSP) reached \$19,239 million in 2006-07, an increase of \$397 million or 2.1% from the 2005-06 figure of \$18,842 million. In 2006-07, household final consumption expenditure was the largest component of total GSP, contributing \$11,752 million (61.1%).



Industry

Includes: **Industry Value Added, Agriculture, Mining, Manufacturing, Retail Trade, Tourist Accommodation, Building Approvals and Activity, Land Use, Business Counts**

31/01/08 | In 2006-07, the number of dwelling units approved for construction recorded an increase for the first time in three years. Total approvals numbered 2,848, an increase of 8.2% from the 2005-06 total of 2,633.



Population

Includes: **Population change, Components of change, Natural Increase, Births, Deaths, Life expectancy, Net Migration, Age structure, Population distribution, Country of birth, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population**

30/04/08 | In the year to June 2007, Tasmania's population grew by 3,400 to a total of 493,300 people. Natural increase contributed 2,600 people to this population growth, and was the main component of population change. Over the 2005 to 2007 period, more overseas migrants arrived in Tasmania than previously, with 1,300 overseas migrants arriving in the year to June 2007.



Family and Community

Includes: **Family composition, Marriages and Divorces, Labour force status of parents, Child care, Contact arrangements, Children's Participation in sport, cultural and leisure activities, Social Involvement, Voluntary Work, Household type of Internet connection**

30/04/08 | In 2006, there were 128,660 families recorded in Tasmania. Of these, couple families with no children accounted for 40.5%, couple families with children represented 41.4% and one parent families made up 16.7%.



Household Economic Resources

Includes: **Household income, Source of income, Home Ownership, Rent and Housing loan repayments, Household Expenditure, Household assets and liabilities**

30/04/08 | In 2005-06, wages and salaries were the main source of household income in Tasmania. They contributed 52.8% to total household income, followed by a 31.5% contribution from government pensions and allowances, and a 6.5% contribution from unincorporated business



income.

Feature Article

30/04/08 | Ageing in Tasmania, 2006: Australia has an ageing population, with Tasmania the oldest and fastest ageing of the States and Territories. This article explores what we know about Tasmania's ageing population through analysing a selected range of indicators from the 2006 Population Census.

In this Issue



IN THIS ISSUE

Tasmanian State and Regional Indicators (cat. no. 1307.6) provides a summary of Tasmanian statistical information and is released on a quarterly basis. Topics this issue: **Family and Community, Population, and Household Economic Resources**, plus a **Feature Article** on Ageing in Tasmania.

Minor changes have also been made to the Feature Article: Tasmanian Housing Indicators released previously. Percentages in the sections on tenure type and landlord type have been recalculated to include the proportion of "not stated" responses in those questions on the Census form.

Further topics will be presented with each release, according to the schedule below:

Proposed Topics

Education, Housing & Construction,
Transport
Crime & Justice, Health, Environment

Planned release date

31 July, 2008
31 October, 2008

Explanatory Notes are not included in the form found in other ABS publications. Please see the Explanatory Notes contained in related ABS publications (links to source documents are provided in the summary tables).

For further information about these and related statistics, contact the ABS on 1300 135 070 or email client.services@abs.gov.au.

If you have any comments or feedback about this product please email tasmania.statistics@abs.gov.au.

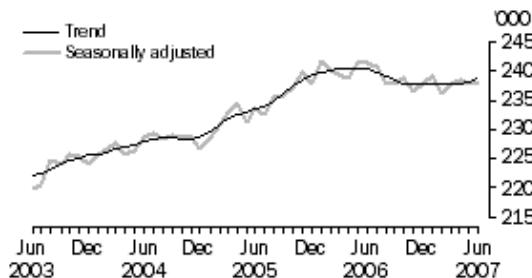
Labour



LABOUR

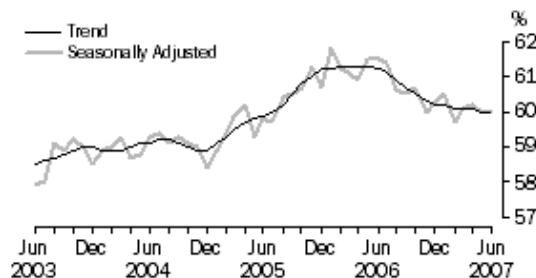
The annual average size of the labour force in Tasmania continued to grow steadily over the years 2002-03 to 2005-06, but decreased again slightly in 2006-07 to 238,000. The participation rate slowed from 60.9% in 2005-06 to 60.3% in 2006-07.

LABOUR FORCE, Tasmania



Source: Labour Force, Australia, Spreadsheets (cat. no. 6202.0.55.001)

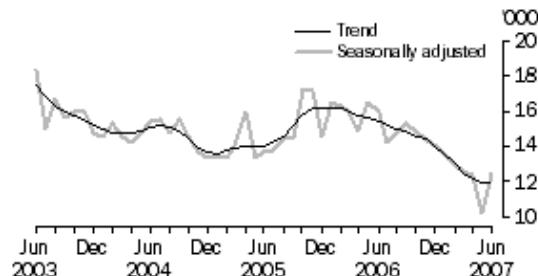
PARTICIPATION RATE, Tasmania



Source: Labour Force, Australia, Spreadsheets (cat. no. 6202.0.55.001)

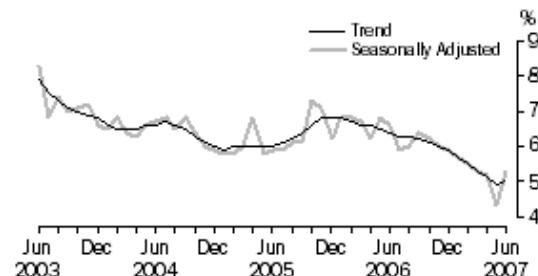
The number of people employed continued to grow, but increased by only 0.8% from 2005-06 to 2006-07. The number of people in full-time work also continued to increase, reaching 154,100 in 2006-07.

UNEMPLOYED PERSONS, Tasmania



Source: Labour Force Australia, Spreadsheets (cat. no. 6202.0.55.001)

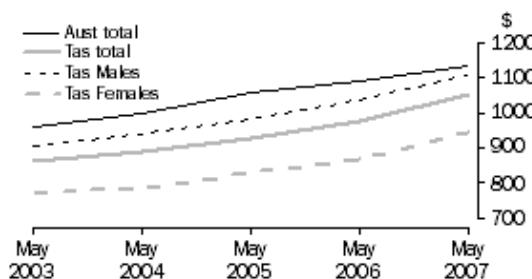
UNEMPLOYMENT RATE, Tasmania



Source: Labour Force, Australia, Spreadsheets (cat. no. 6202.0.55.001)

Tasmania's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate fell to an historically low level of 4.3% in May 2007. The Australian unemployment rate reached 4.3% at the same time. This was the lowest level of unemployment recorded for Tasmania since the current series began in 1978.

AVERAGE WEEKLY TOTAL EARNINGS, Full-time adults: trend



Source: Average Weekly Earnings, Australia (cat. no. 6302.0)

In May 2007, the average weekly total earnings figure for all employed Tasmanians was

\$1,050.50, an increase of 7.8% on the May 2006 figure. In the same period, the average weekly total earnings figure for full-time employed Tasmanian males was \$1,107.40, and for females was \$942.70. The Australian figure for all full-time employed adults was \$1,134.30 in May 2007.

LABOUR , Summary table, Tasmania(a)(b)

	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
LABOUR FORCE					
Total labour force ('000)	220.2	225.5	230.2	238.4	238.0
Employed full-time ('000)	139.2	146.0	148.0	151.1	154.1
Employed part-time ('000)	62.0	64.2	67.9	71.6	70.4
Unemployment rate	8.6%	6.8%	6.2%	6.6%	5.7%
Long term unemployment rate	2.0%	2.0%	1.6%	2.1%	nya
Participation rate	58.3%	58.9%	59.3%	60.9%	60.3%
Labour force underutilisation rate - persons	13.5%	13.4%	13.4%	13.4%	nya
Extended labour force underutilisation rate - persons	15.4%	14.3%	14.9%	14.7%	nya
Employment growth - annual change	1.6%	4.5%	2.7%	3.2%	0.8%
Job vacancies ('000)	2.0	1.7	1.9	2.4	2.3
WORKING HOURS - ALL EMPLOYEES					
Average actual hours worked per week, full-time (hrs)	37.6	38.2	38.0	36.2	36.5
Average actual hours worked per week, part-time (hrs)	13.7	15.0	15.1	14.7	14.5
OCCUPATION AND INDUSTRY					
Employed in higher skilled occupations(c)('000)	103.5	108.3	114.5	116.5	121.5
Employed in service industries ('000)	155.1	155.8	154.9	157.5	157.7
Employed in manufacturing industries ('000)	22.1	22.4	23.4	22.8	21.9
AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS(d) & WAGE PRICE INDEX					
Full-time adult ordinary time earnings, trend	\$830.40	\$853.80	\$892.80	\$937.50	\$1 009.30
Full-time adult total earnings, trend	\$861.50	\$888.20	\$930.10	\$974.30	\$1 050.50
Wage Price Index - all sectors index number	96.8	100.0	104.1	108.4	113.1
Wage Price Index - all sectors percentage change	3.3%	3.3%	4.1%	4.1%	4.3%

nya not yet available

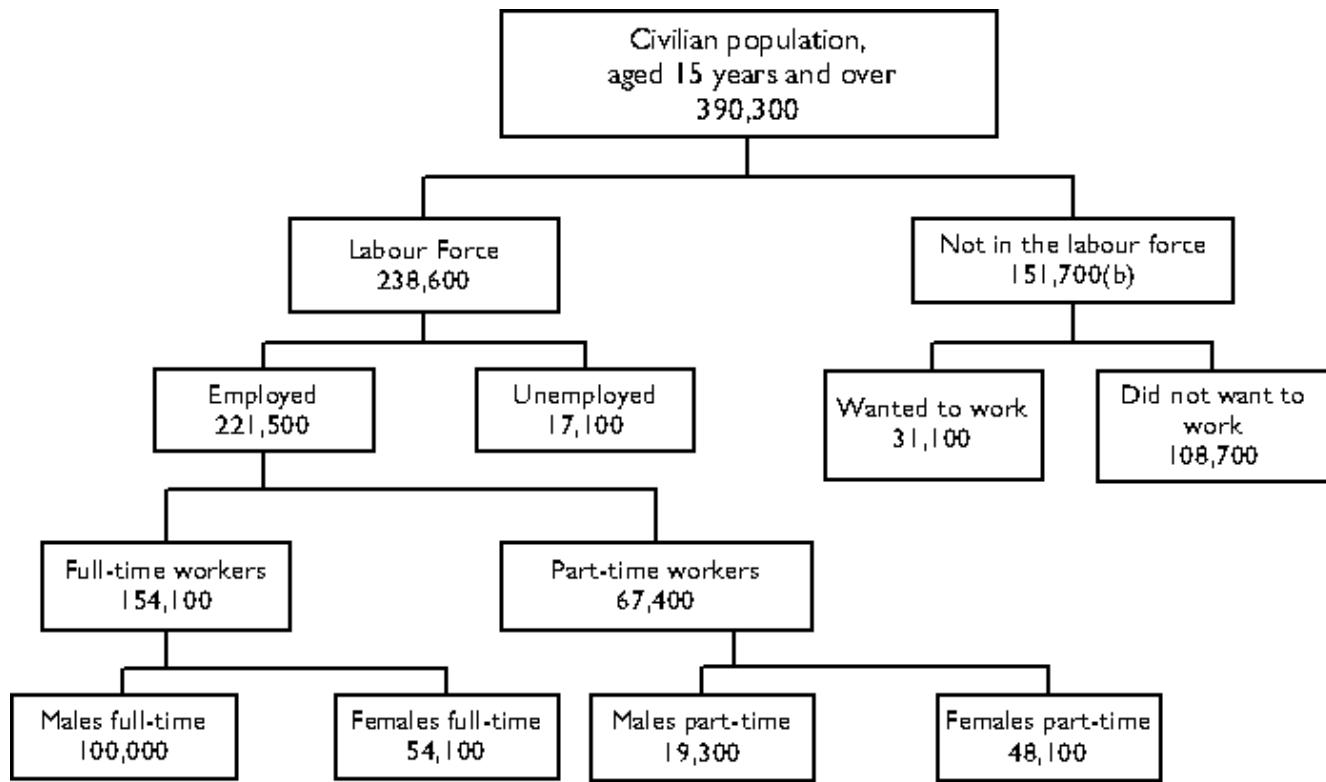
(a) Persons aged 15 years and over.

(b) Data are annual averages calculated on monthly original estimates, unless otherwise specified.

(c) Includes ASCO skill levels 1-3, which equate to ASCO major groups 1-5. For further information, refer to Australian Standard Classification of Occupations (cat.no. 1220.0).

(d) Estimates of average weekly earnings are trend data as published for May each year.

LABOUR FORCE FRAMEWORK, TASMANIA, SEPTEMBER 2006(a)



(a) Based on original survey data, at September 2006

(b) Includes 11,900 people who were permanently unable to work

Source: Underemployed Workers, Australia (cat. no. 6265.0),
Persons Not in the Labour Force, Australia (cat. no. 6220.0)

ABS SOURCE PUBLICATIONS

Australian Labour Market Statistics (cat. no. 6105.0)

Average Weekly Earnings, Australia (cat. no. 6302.0)

Employment Arrangements and Superannuation, Australia (cat. no. 6361.0)

Forms of Employment, Australia (cat. no. 6359.0)

Job Vacancies, Australia (cat. no. 6354.0)

Labour Force, Australia (cat. no. 6202.0)

Labour Force, Australia, Detailed - Electronic Delivery, Monthly (cat. no. 6291.0.55.001)

Labour Force, Australia, Detailed, Quarterly (cat. no. 6291.0.55.003)

Labour Mobility, Australia (cat. no. 6209.0)

Labour Price Index, Australia (cat. no. 6345.0)

Labour Statistics: Concepts, Sources and Methods (cat. no. 6102.0.55.001)

Persons Not in the Labour Force, Australia (cat. no. 6220.0)

Regional Wage and Salary Earner Statistics, Australia (cat. no. 5673.0.55.003)

Tasmanian Key Indicators (cat.no. 1304.6)

Underemployed Workers, Australia (cat. no. 6265.0)

Further information can also be found on the Labour Statistics Theme Page of the ABS website.

Economic Activity

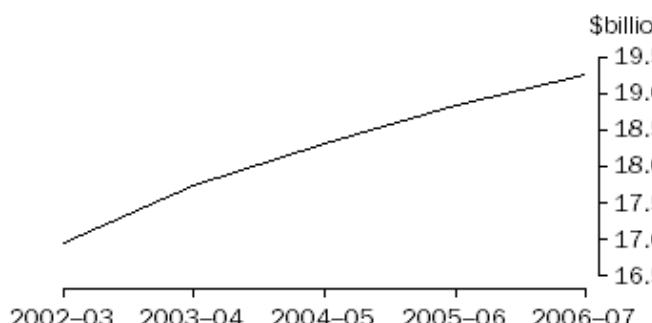


ECONOMIC ACTIVITY

GROSS STATE PRODUCT (GSP)

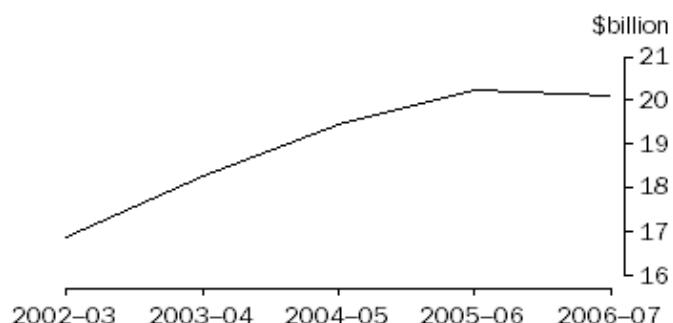
Tasmania's Gross State Product (GSP) reached \$19,239 million in 2006-07, an increase of \$397 million or 2.1% from the 2005-06 figure of \$18,842 million. In 2006-07, household final consumption expenditure was the largest component of total GSP, contributing \$11,752 million (61.1%). At the same time, government final consumption expenditure accounted for \$4,385 million (22.8%) of GSP. State final demand in 2006-07 decreased by 0.7% on the 2005-06 estimate of \$20,239 million.

GROSS STATE PRODUCT, Tasmania (chain volume measures)



Source: Australian National Accounts:
State Accounts (cat. no. 5220.0)

STATE FINAL DEMAND, Tasmania (chain volume measures)



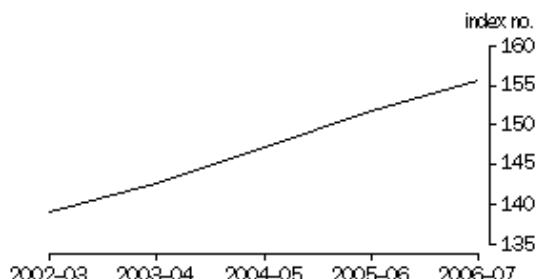
Source: Australian National Accounts:
State Accounts (cat. no. 5220.0)

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (CPI)

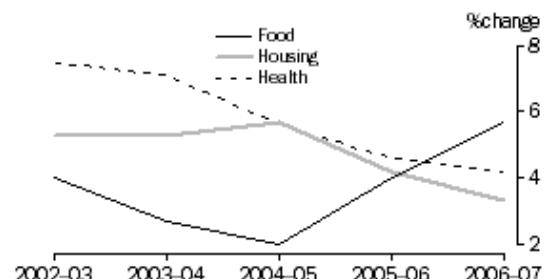
In 2006-07 the all groups CPI in Hobart increased by 2.5% from 2005-06. Rises in food prices (5.7%), health (4.2%) and housing (3.4%) were the main contributors to this change.

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (all groups), Hobart

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (selected groups), Hobart



Source: Consumer Price Index, Australia (cat. no. 6401.0)

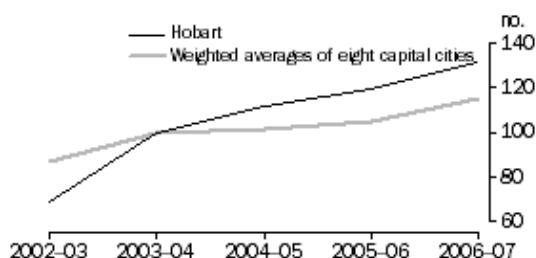


Source: Consumer Price Index, Australia (cat. no. 6401.0)

HOUSE PRICE INDEX

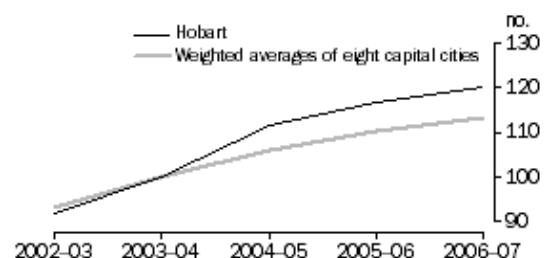
The price index for established houses in Hobart in 2006-07 increased 10.0% compared to 9.1% nationally. At the same time the price index for project homes in Hobart increased 3.0% compared to 2.7% nationally.

HOUSE PRICE INDEX (established homes), Hobart



Source: House Price Indexes: Eight Capital Cities (cat. no. 6416.0)

HOUSE PRICE INDEX (project homes), Hobart

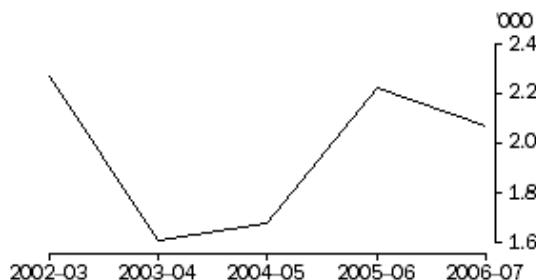


Source: House Price Indexes: Eight Capital Cities (cat. no. 6416.0)

HOUSING FINANCE COMMITMENTS

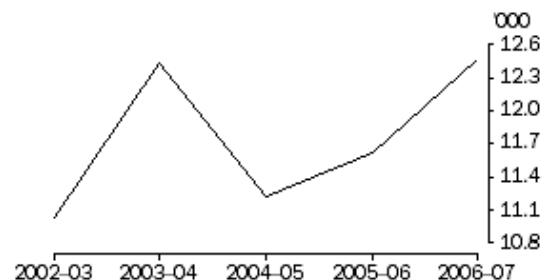
The number of first home buyers' houses (owner occupied) financed in Tasmania in 2006-07 decreased by 6.6% from the 2005-06 estimate of 2,200. At the same time non-first home buyers' dwellings (owner occupier) financed increased by 7.3%.

FIRST HOME BUYERS (Tasmania), Number of Dwellings Financed



Source: Housing Finance, Australia (cat. no. 5609.0)

NON-FIRST HOME BUYERS (Tasmania), Number of Dwellings Financed



Source: Housing Finance, Australia (cat. no. 5609.0)

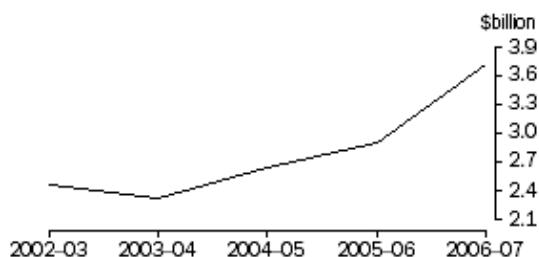
INTERNATIONAL MERCHANDISE TRADE

In 2006-07 the value of Tasmanian goods exported overseas was \$3,712.2 million, an increase of 28.3% from 2005-06. At the same time, the value of goods imported directly into Tasmania was \$614.4 million, which represents an increase of 19.0% from 2005-06.

In 2006-07 the major Tasmanian export destination was Japan, buying \$626.8 million worth of Tasmanian goods or 12.9% more than in 2005-06. Tasmania's major source of imports in 2006-07 was the United States of America, dispatching goods worth \$78.7 million to the Tasmanian market.

Zinc was the major single export commodity in 2006-07, contributing \$1,098.4 million or 29.6% to total Tasmanian exports. Also in 2006-07, power generating machinery and equipment was the highest value imported commodity representing \$82.0 million or 13.3% of total imports.

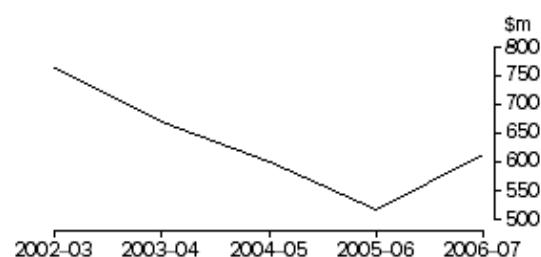
VALUE OF MERCHANDISE EXPORTS, Tasmania



Value: free on board (f.o.b.)

Source: ABS data available on request, International trade

VALUE OF MERCHANDISE IMPORTS, Tasmania



Value: customs value

Source: ABS data available on request, International trade

ABS SOURCE PUBLICATIONS:

Australian National Accounts, State Accounts (cat. no. 5220.0)

Private New Capital Expenditure and Expected Expenditure, Australia (cat. no. 5625.0)

Consumer Price Index, Australia (cat. no. 6401.0)

Labour Price Index, Australia (cat. no. 6345.0)

House Price Indexes, Eight Capital Cities (cat. no. 6416.0)

Australian Industry (cat. no. 8155.0)

Housing Finance, Australia (cat. no. 5609.0)

Lending Finance, Australia (cat. no. 5671.0)

Industry



INDUSTRY

AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION

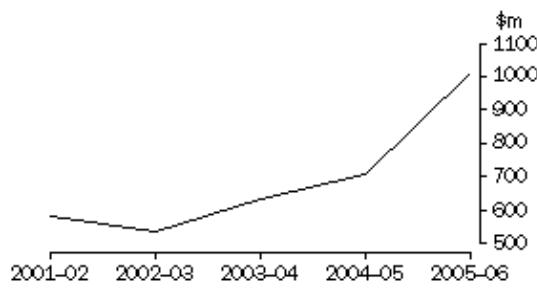
In 2005-06 the preliminary estimate of the gross value of agricultural commodities in Tasmania

was \$934.4 million. The largest contributors were whole milk (\$209.1 million), slaughtering and other disposals of cattle and calves (\$178.8 million) and vegetables (\$166.0 million).

MINING

Mineral production in Tasmania increased in value by 75.2% over the five year period 2001-02 to 2005-06. In 2005-06 total mineral commodities were worth \$1,011.0 million compared to \$577.0 million in 2001-02. In the previous twelve months, mineral production increased by 43.2%, up from \$706.0 million. The most substantial increase was in metallic mineral production, which reported a 47.0% increase from the previous year, increasing from \$634.0 million in 2004-05 to \$932.0 million in 2005-06.

TOTAL MINERAL PRODUCTION

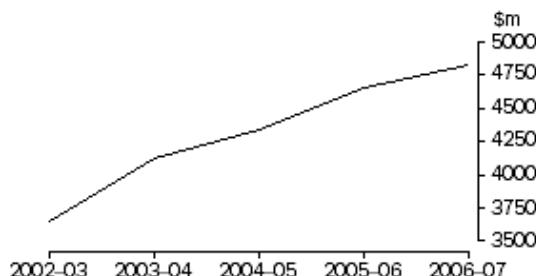


Source: Mining Operations, Australia (cat. no. 8415.0)

RETAIL TURNOVER

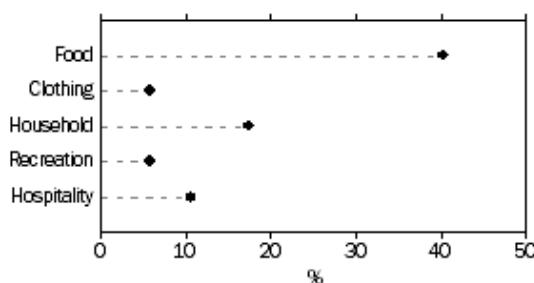
In 2006-07, the value of retail turnover in Tasmania was \$4,828.3 million. This represented an increase of 3.6% from the previous year, and an increase of 32.4% over the last 5 years. Food retailing industry contributed \$1,945.9 million of the total value of retail turnover (40.3%), followed by household good retailing \$840.2 million (17.4%) and hospitality and service industries \$510.4 million (10.6%).

RETAIL TURNOVER, Tasmania



Source: Retail Trade, Australia (cat. no. 8501.0)

RETAIL TURNOVER, Tasmania (percentage contribution)



Source: Retail Trade, Australia (cat. no. 8501.0)

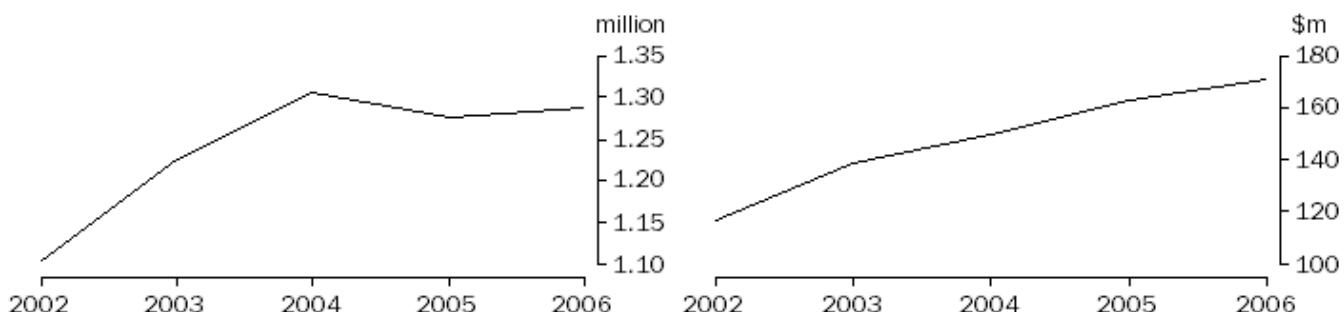
TOURIST ACCOMMODATION

Guest arrivals peaked in 2004 with 1.3 million persons, and have remained relatively stable ever since. Takings from accommodation establishments have increased 45.9% over the 5 year period 2002 to 2006. In 2006, takings were \$170.8 million, compared to \$117.1 million in 2002, with the average taking per room per night \$124.80 in 2006 compared to \$100.37 in 2002.

GUEST ARRIVALS, Tasmania

TAKINGS FROM ACCOMMODATION,

Tasmania



Note: Hotels, Motels and Serviced Apartments with 15 or more rooms.
Source: *Tourist Accommodation, Australia* (cat. no. 8635.0)

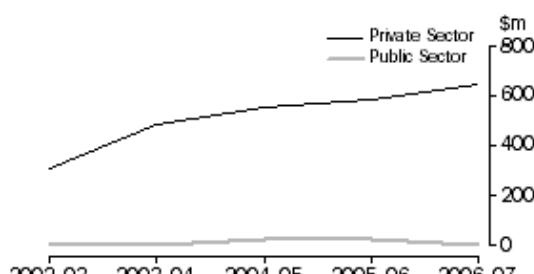
Note: Hotels, Motels and Serviced Apartments with 15 or more rooms.
Source: *Tourist Accommodation, Australia* (cat. no. 8635.0)

BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION

In 2006-07, the number of dwelling units approved for construction recorded an increase for the first time in three years. Total approvals numbered 2,848, an increase of 8.2% from the 2005-06 total of 2,633. This increase was mostly in new house approvals which were up by 10.1% (2,507) from the 2005-06 figure of 2,276.

The private sector accounted for over 90.0% of the value of all building work done in 2006-07. Over half of this was from residential building of new houses. Less than 2.0% of the value of public sector residential building was invested in new houses.

VALUE OF BUILDING WORK DONE, Tasmania Residential



Source: *Building Activity, Australia* (cat. no. 8752.0)

VALUE OF BUILDING WORK DONE, Tasmania Non-residential

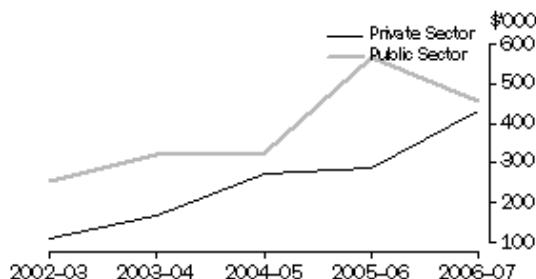


Source: *Building Activity, Australia* (cat. no. 8752.0)

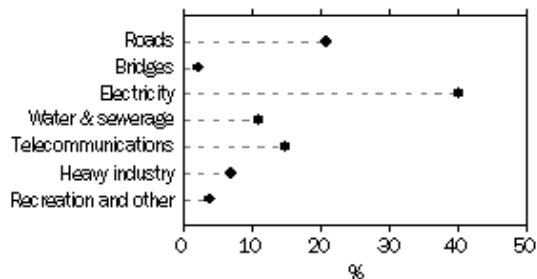
The total value of engineering construction work done in Tasmania in 2006-07 was \$885.8 million, an increase of 3.7% from the previous year. In 2006-07, 48.7% of all engineering construction work was carried out by the private sector (\$431.4 million). Electricity generation, transmission and pipelines represented 40.1% of the total value of engineering construction work (38.1% of the private sector and 41.9% of the public sector) followed by roads, highways and subdivisions 20.9% (10.0% of the private sector and 31.1% of the public sector) and telecommunications 14.9% (24.4% of the private sector and 5.8% of the public sector). Heavy industry accounted for only 7% of the total value of engineering construction work done in Tasmania in 2006-07.

VALUE OF ENGINEERING CONSTRUCTION WORK DONE, Tasmania

VALUE OF ENGINEERING CONSTRUCTION WORK DONE, Tasmania (percentage contribution)



Source: *Engineering Construction Activity, Australia* (cat. no. 8762.0)



Source: *Engineering Construction Activity, Australia* (cat. no. 8762.0)

RATEABLE LAND USE

As at November 2007, the total rateable land use area in Tasmania was 4,164,353 hectares (ha). Primary production accounted for 3,678,107 ha or 88.3% of this land, 193,957 ha was residential (4.7%), 123,082 ha was used for sporting facilities and recreation (3.0%) and 100,989 ha was vacant land (2.4%). Industrial land accounted for only 0.2% of the total rateable land use area. (Source: Information and Land Services, DPIW)

BUSINESS COUNTS

At June 2006 there were 15,012 (41.0%) employing and 21,582 (59.0%) non-employed businesses operating in Tasmania. The majority of employing businesses, 8,088 (53.9%) employed less than four employees with 5,058 (33.7%) businesses employing 5 to 19 employees. 1,266 businesses (8.4%) employed 20 to 49 employees while only 600 businesses (4.0%) had 50 or more employees.

ABS SOURCE PUBLICATIONS

Building Activity, Australia (cat. no. 8752.0)

Building Approvals, Australia (cat. no. 8731.0)

Counts of Australian Businesses, including entries and exits June 2003 - June 2006 (cat. no. 8165.0)

Engineering Construction Activity, Australia (cat. no. 8762.0)

Manufacturing Industry, Australia (cat. no. 8221.0)

Mining Operations, Australia (cat. no. 8412.0)

Retail Trade, Australia (cat. no. 8501.0)

Tourist Accommodation, Australia (cat. no. 8635.0)

Value of Agricultural Commodities Produced (cat. no. 7503.0)

Value of Selected Agricultural Commodities Produced (cat. no. 7502.0)

Population



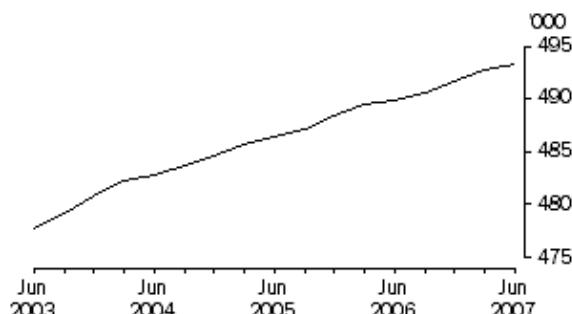
POPULATION

POPULATION CHANGE (a)

In the year to June 2007, Tasmania's population grew by 3,400 to a total of 493,300 people. This growth must be considered in the context of Tasmania's historical pattern of population change and the nature of Tasmania's components of population change. The components of population change are natural increase, interstate migration and overseas migration. In Tasmania, natural increase is the main source of population growth, while net interstate migration is usually the main source of population loss.

After experiencing population decline between 1996 and 2000 due to large interstate migration losses, Tasmania did not exceed its 1996 population until June 2003. The net growth experienced between June 2002 and 2004, seen in the graph below, was due to higher than average levels of net interstate migration. Between June 2005 and 2007, net interstate migration returned to its longer term trend of net loss; however, Tasmania did not return to population decline. This was due to larger than average gains from net overseas migration and natural increase over that period.

TOTAL POPULATION, Tasmania

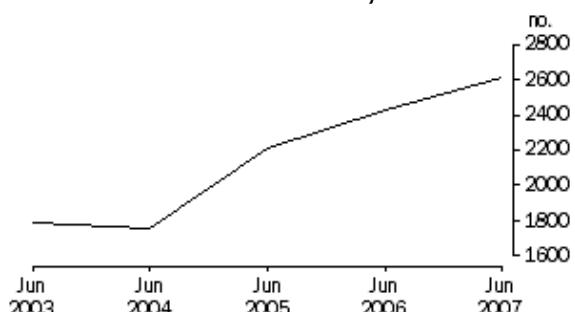


Source: Australian Demographic Statistics, Jun 2007 (cat. no. 3101.0)

NATURAL INCREASE (a)

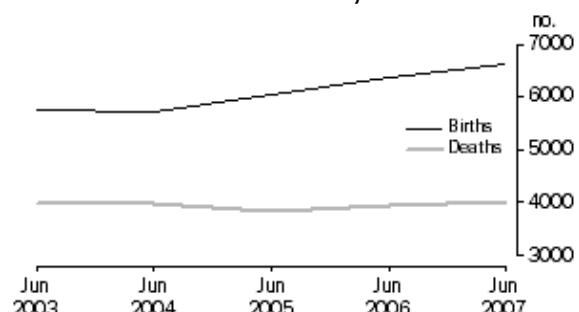
Natural increase (the number of births minus the number of deaths) contributed 2,600 people to Tasmania's population growth of 3,400 people in the year to June 2007, and was therefore the main component of population change. The number of births per annum increased markedly from 2004 to 2007, from 5,800 to 6,600. The number of deaths over the 2003 to 2007 period remained relatively steady at around 4,000 deaths per annum.

NATURAL INCREASE, Tasmania



Source: Australian Demographic Statistics, Jun 2007 (cat. no. 3101.0)

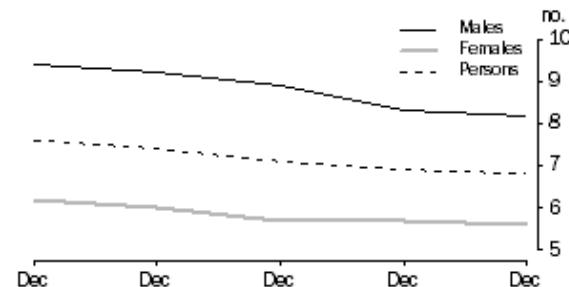
BIRTHS & DEATHS, Tasmania



Source: Australian Demographic Statistics, Jun 2007 (cat. no. 3101.0)

At December 2006, Tasmania's standardised death rate was 6.8 deaths per 1,000 standard population. Even though Tasmania's population is ageing, the falling standardised death rate means Tasmanians are increasingly less likely to die at younger ages.

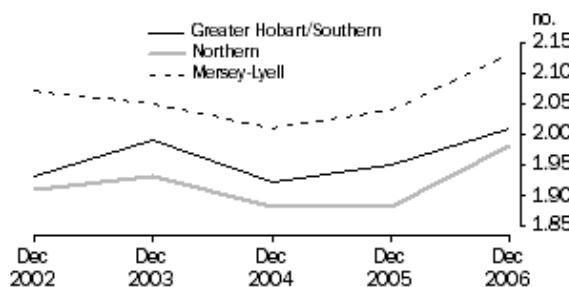
STANDARDISED DEATH RATE, Tasmania



Source: Deaths, Australia, 2006 (cat. no. 3302.0)

The total fertility rate (the number of babies a woman could expect to bear in her reproductive lifetime) varies by region within Tasmania. Mersey-Lyell Statistical Division (SD) had the highest fertility rate over the 2002 to 2006 period, reaching 2.13 babies per woman at December 2006, while the Northern SD had the lowest fertility rate (1.98).

TOTAL FERTILITY RATE(a), Statistical Divisions



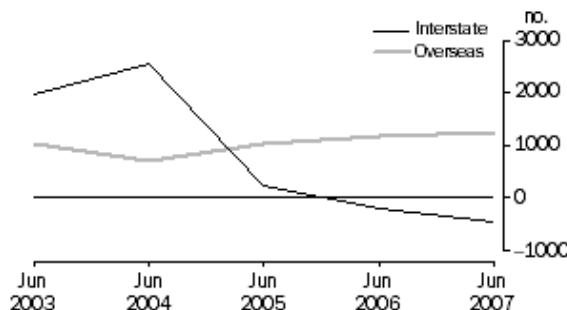
(a) Average total fertility rate for three years leading to reference year.

Source: Births, Australia, 2006 (cat. no. 3301.0)

NET MIGRATION (a)

Tasmania experiences a high flow of people to and from the State, with 12,300 people arriving and 12,800 departing in the year to June 2007, leading to a net loss of 450 people. This loss comes after a recent net migration high of 2,600 in the year to June 2004, coinciding with the peak of the housing boom. Tasmania attracts a low proportion of Australia's overseas migrants; however, we consistently receive a net gain. Over the 2005 to 2007 period, Tasmania gained more in net terms from overseas than from interstate migrants, with 1,300 overseas migrants arriving in the year to June 2007.

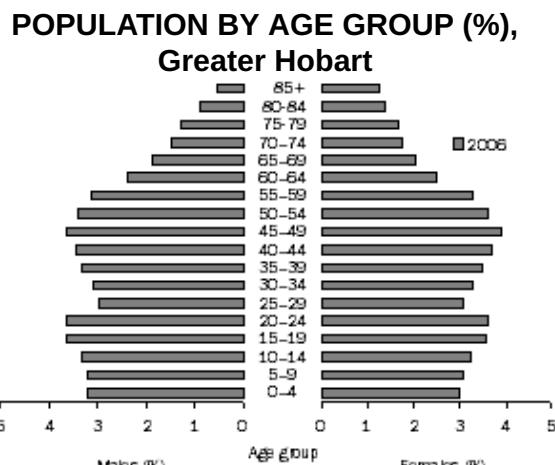
NET MIGRATION, Tasmania



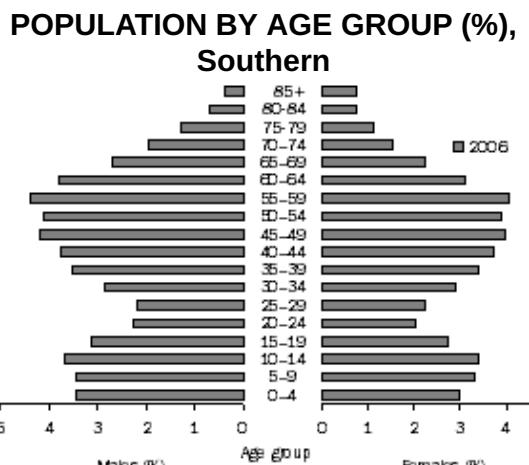
Source: Australian Demographic Statistics, Jun 2007 (cat. no. 3101.0)

AGE STRUCTURE OF THE POPULATION (a)

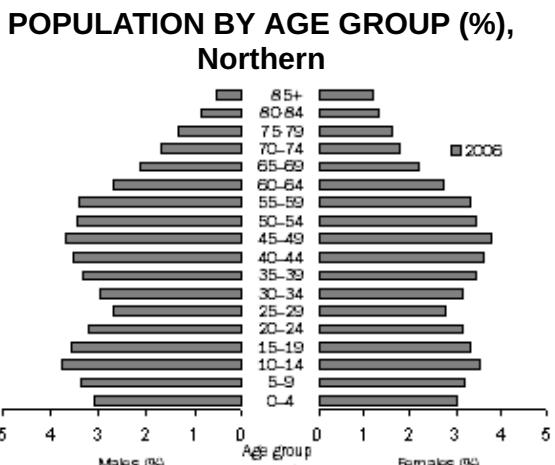
Tasmania's regions have different age structures which affect the current and future needs of the populations (as well as reflecting the current needs of the populations). The population pyramids below illustrate that Southern SD and Mersey-Lyell SD have low proportions of 20 to 29 year olds relative to the other age groups, while Greater Hobart SD has a relatively large proportion of 15 to 24 year olds. This affects where resources may be needed and may reflect the availability of tertiary education and employment opportunities.



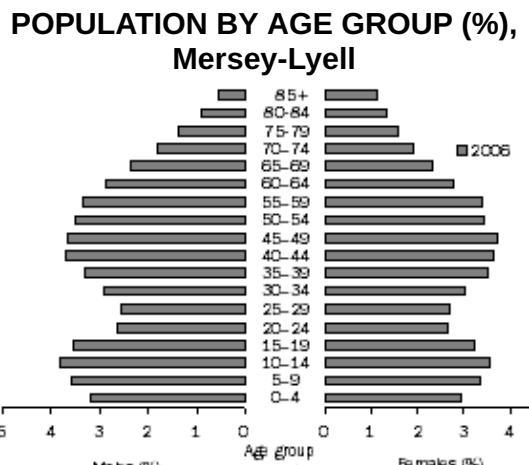
Source: Population by Age and Sex, Australia, 2006 (cat. no. 3235.0)



Source: Population by Age and Sex, Australia, 2006 (cat. no. 3235.0)



Source: Population by Age and Sex, Australia, 2006 (cat. no. 3235.0)



Source: Population by Age and Sex, Australia, 2006 (cat. no. 3235.0)

ABS SOURCE PUBLICATIONS

Australian Demographic Statistics, Jun 2007 (cat. no. 3101.0)

Births, Australia, 2006 (cat. no. 3301.0)

Deaths, Australia, 2006 (cat. no. 3302.0)

Demographic Estimates and Projections: Concepts, Sources and Methods, 1999 (cat. no. 3228.0)

Footnote: (a) Numbers in this section of commentary have been rounded, and will not exactly match those in the related spreadsheets.

Family & Community



FAMILY AND COMMUNITY

FAMILY COMPOSITION

In 2006, there were 128,660 families recorded in Tasmania. Of these, couple families with no children accounted for 40.5%, couple families with children represented 41.4% and one parent families made up 16.7%. Most families with children, regardless of being couple families or one parent families, had children aged under 15 years.

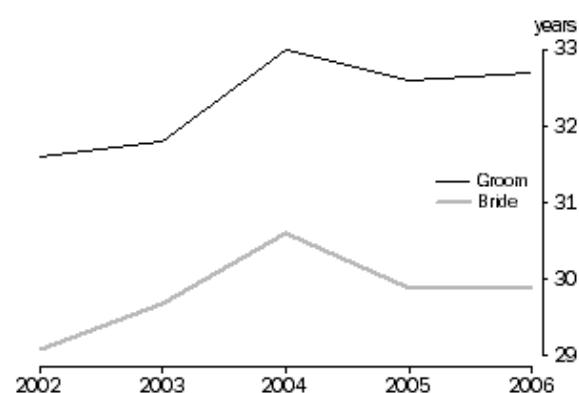
MARRIAGES AND DIVORCES

The number of registered marriages in Tasmania has remained relatively steady over the last five years, with the crude marriage rate varying little. Median age at marriage increased slightly from 31.6 years for males in 2002 to 32.7 years in 2006 and 29.1 years for females in 2002 to 29.9 years in 2006. Marriages involving cohabitation prior to marriage increased from 79.6% in 2002 to 82.1% in 2006.

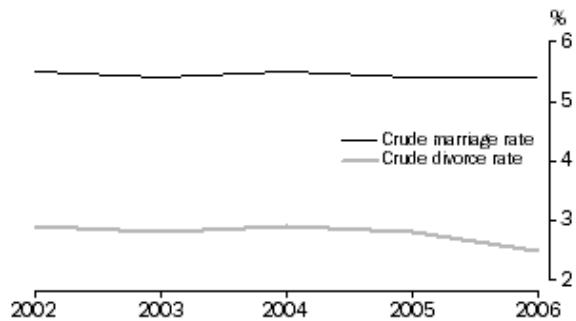
In 2006, over half of all divorces involved children. The crude divorce rate decreased slightly over the last five years, from 2.9% in 2002 to 2.5% in 2006. In 2006, the median duration of marriage prior to divorce was 13.5 years.

CRUDE MARRIAGE AND DIVORCE RATES, Tasmania

MEDIAN AGE AT MARRIAGE, Tasmania



Source: Marriages, Australia, 2006 (cat. no. 3306.0.55.001)



Source: Marriages, Australia, 2006 (cat. no. 3306.0.55.001)
 Divorces, Australia, 2006 (cat. no. 3307.0.55.001)

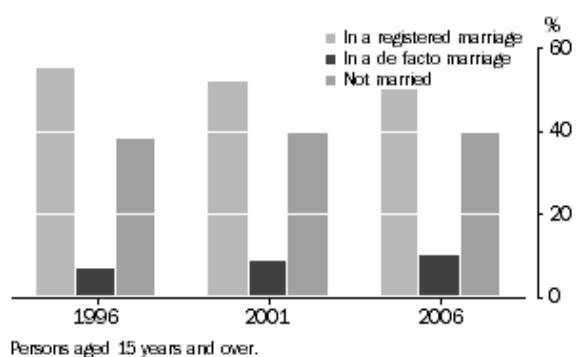
SOCIAL MARITAL STATUS

In 2006, 49.9% of all Tasmanians aged 15 years and over were in a registered marriage. This compared to 52.0% in 2001 and 55.2% in 1996.

In 2006, 35,700 persons or 10.4% of all Tasmanians aged 15 years and over were in a de facto marriage, compared to 22,400 in 1996. This represented an increase of 59.0% in persons in de facto marriages over the ten year period 1996-2006.

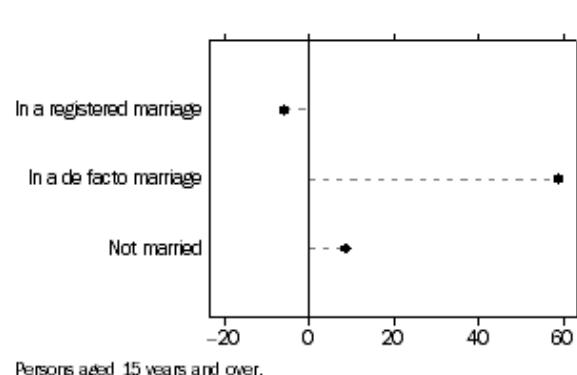
In 2006, the percentage of persons aged 15 years and over in Tasmania who were not married remained relatively steady, increasing only slightly to 39.6%, from 39.4% in 2001 and 38.0% in 1996.

SOCIAL MARITAL STATUS, Tasmania, 1996-2006



Source: Census of Population and Housing, 2006, Time Series Profile, Table T05

SOCIAL MARITAL STATUS, Tasmania, 1996-2006 (percentage change)



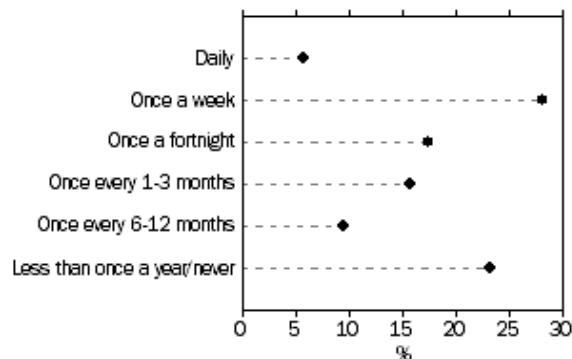
Source: Census of Population and Housing, 2006, Time Series Profile, Table T05

CONTACT ARRANGEMENTS

In 2003, of children aged 0-17 years with a natural parent living elsewhere, 28.2% had face to face contact at least once a week, 17.5% had face to face contact at least once a fortnight, and 15.8% had face to face contact at least once every 1-3 months. Almost a quarter (23.3%) of all children aged 0-17 years with a natural parent living elsewhere had face to face contact less than once a year or never.

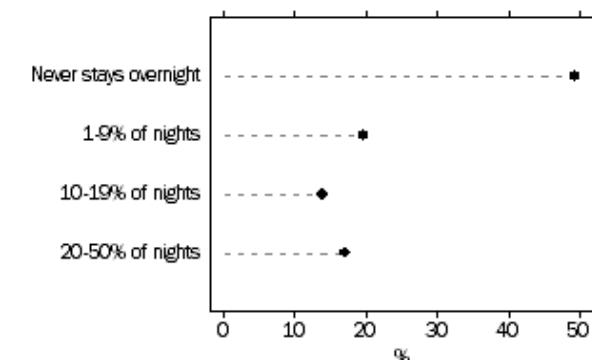
Nearly half (49.4%) of all children with a natural parent living elsewhere never stay overnight with the parent living elsewhere.

FREQUENCY OF FACE TO FACE CONTACT, Tasmania, 2003 **PROPORTION OF NIGHTS WITH NATURAL PARENT LIVING ELSEWHERE, Tasmania, 2003**



Children aged 0-17 years.

Source: Family Characteristics, 2003 (cat. no. 4442.0)



Children aged 0-17 years.

Source: Family Characteristics, 2003 (cat. no. 4442.0)

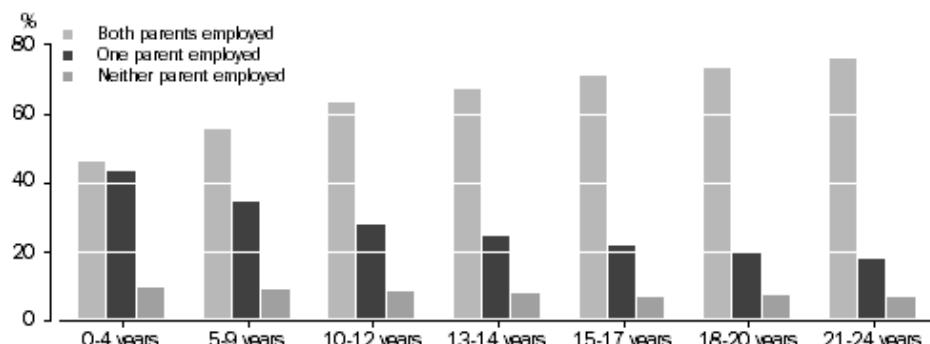
LABOUR FORCE STATUS OF PARENTS

In 2006, more than half (58.4%) of all dependent children in couple families had both parents employed. The likelihood of both parents being employed increased with the age of the children, from 45.9% of dependent children aged 0-4 years to 75.6% of dependent children aged 21-24 years. At the same time, 32.1% of dependent children in couple families had one parent employed. The likelihood of dependent children in couple families having one parent employed decreased with the age of the children, from 43.2% of dependent children aged 0-4 years to 17.4% of dependent children aged 21-24 years.

Of one parent families with dependent children, 49.9% of children had an employed parent. The likelihood of the parent being employed increased with the age of the children, from 27.4% of dependent children aged 0-4 years to 70.7% of dependent children aged 21-24 years.

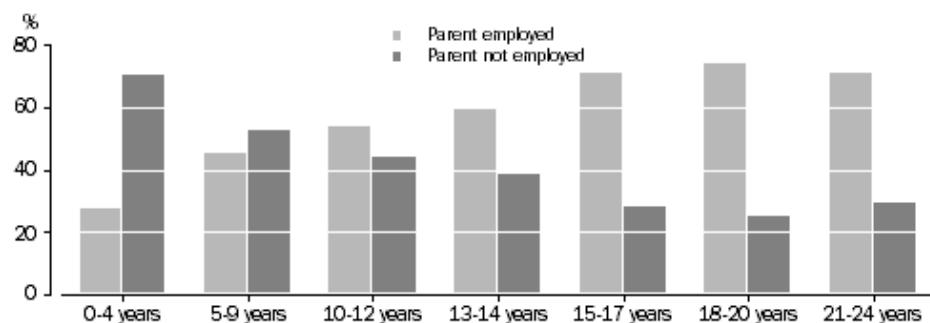
Of children living in couple families with children, only 8.3% had neither parent employed, compared to 48.3% of children in one parent families. The likelihood of neither parent in a couple family with children being employed varied little with the age of the children, decreasing only slightly from 9.5% of dependent children aged 0-4 years to 6.6% of dependent children aged 21-24 years. However, the likelihood of the parent in a one parent family with dependent children not being employed decreased markedly with the age of the children, from 70.3% for dependent children aged 0-4 years to 29.3% of dependent children aged 21-24 years.

**LABOUR FORCE STATUS OF PARENTS,
Children in couple families, by age, Tasmania, 2006**



Source: Census of Population and Housing, 2006,
Expanded Community Profile, table X33, X34

LABOUR FORCE STATUS OF PARENTS, Children in one parent families, by age, Tasmania, 2006

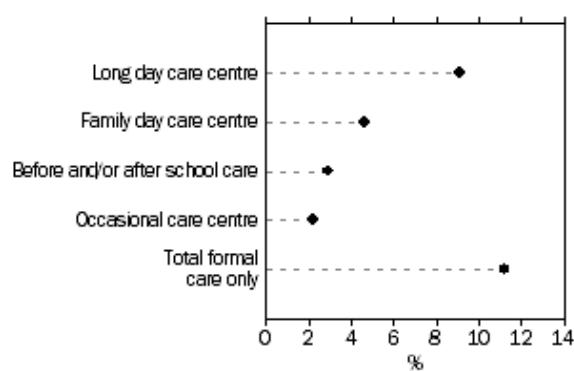


Source: Census of Population and Housing, 2006,
Expanded Community Profile, table X33, X34

CHILD CARE

In 2005, 40.6% of children aged 0-12 years used child care. Of these, 11.2% used formal care only, 22.3% used informal care only and 7.1% used both formal and informal care. Long day care centre was the most commonly used form of formal child care (9.1%) followed by family day care centre (4.6%) and before and/or after school care (2.9%). Grandparents provided a significant proportion of informal child care (19.8%).

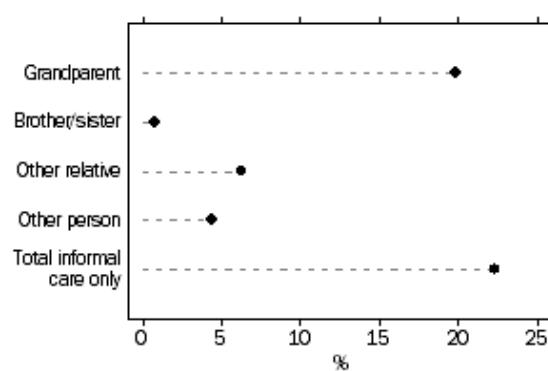
FORMAL CHILD CARE, Tasmania, 2005



Children aged 0-12 years.

Source: Child Care, Australia, 2005 (cat. no. 4402.0)

INFORMAL CHILD CARE, Tasmania, 2005



Children aged 0-12 years.

Source: Child Care, Australia, 2005 (cat. no. 4402.0)

CHILDREN'S PARTICIPATION IN CULTURAL AND LEISURE ACTIVITIES

In 2006, almost one third (32.2%) of Tasmanian children aged 5-14 years participated in cultural activities. Females were more likely to participate in cultural activities (46.9%) compared to males (18.4%). This included playing a musical instrument (females 21.6% compared to males 14.8%), dancing (females 24.1% compared to males 1.2%) and singing (females 12.2% compared to males 3.0%). Females were also more likely to visit a public library or attend a performing arts event.

More than half (59.2%) of all children aged 5-14 years participated in sport. Of these, males accounted for 60.2% of participants and females 58.4%. Soccer (outdoor) was the highest participation sport amongst Tasmanian children aged 5-14 years (17.5%), attracting 23.7% males and 10.9% females. This was followed by swimming (14.6%) which attracted 11.3% males and 18.4% females, and Australian Rules Football (10.0%) which attracted 18.4% males and 0.9% females.

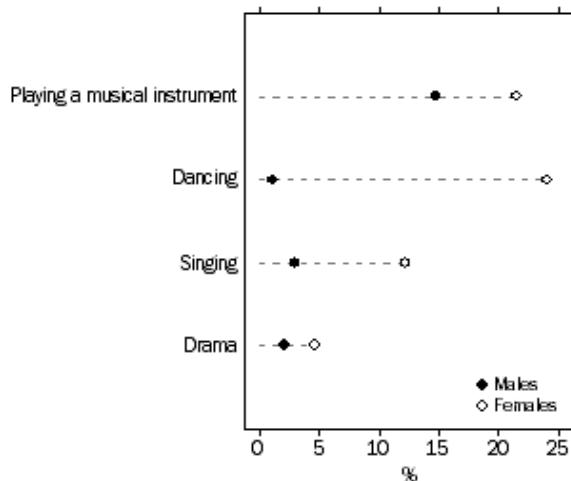
Leisure pursuits were dominated by watching TV, videos or DVDs (95.4%), reading for pleasure (78.8%) and bike riding (72.5%). Most children used a computer (94.1%), with 61.2% having accessed the Internet.

Participation in organised sport increased with age, from 40.9% of children aged 5-8 years to 72.7% of children aged 12-14 years. Use of the Internet also increased with age, from 36.1% of children aged 5-8 years to 83.9% of children aged 12-14 years, as did homework or other study, which increased from 48.4% of children aged 5-8 years to 84.9% of children aged 12-14 years.

Participation in art and craft activities decreased with age, from 70.6% of children aged 5-8 years to 29.3% of children aged 12-14 years. Skateboarding or rollerblading also decreased with age, from 21.0% of children aged 5-8 years to 13.2% of children aged 12-14 years, as did bike riding, which decreased from 79.4% of children aged 5-8 years to 60.0% of children aged 12-14 years. Use of a computer, but not the Internet, decreased from 50.4% of children aged 5-8 years to 13.7% of children aged 12-14 years.

Participation in organised cultural activities, playing electronic or computer games, watching TV, videos or DVDs, and reading for pleasure remained relatively steady as children aged.

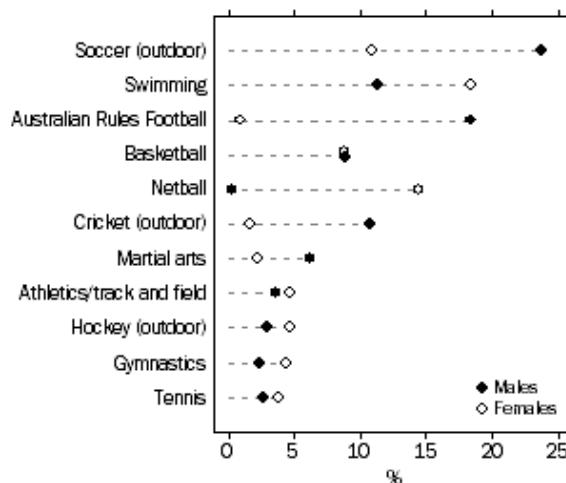
CHILDREN'S PARTICIPATION IN CULTURAL ACTIVITIES, By sex, Tasmania, 2006



Children aged 5-14 years.

Source: Children's Participation in Culture and Leisure Activities, Australia, 2006 (cat. no. 4901.0)

CHILDREN'S PARTICIPATION IN SPORT, By sex, Tasmania, 2006

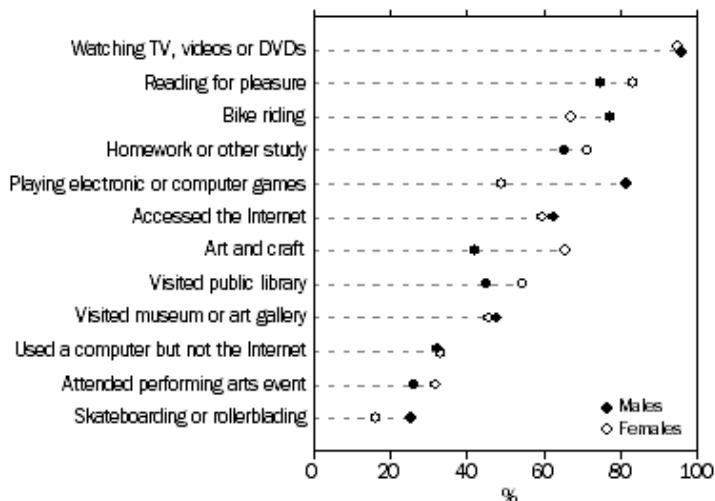


Children aged 5-14 years.

Source: Children's Participation in Culture and Leisure Activities, Australia, 2006 (cat. no. 4901.0)

CHILDREN'S PARTICIPATION IN LEISURE ACTIVITIES,

By sex, Tasmania, 2006



Children aged 5-14 years.

Source: *Children's Participation in Cultural and Leisure Activities, Australia, 2006* (cat. no. 4901.4).

SOCIAL INVOLVEMENT

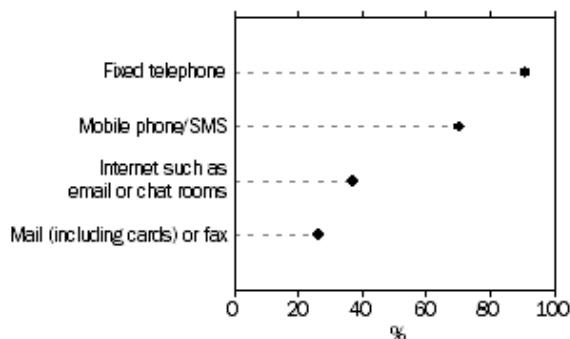
In the week prior to the General Social Survey 2006, 84.0% of all persons in Tasmania aged 18 years and over had face to face contact with family or friends living outside the household. Face to face contact was made by 85.3% of all females and 82.6% of all males aged 18 years and over. Face to face contact decreased with age, from 90.6% of persons aged 18-24 years to 77.4% of persons aged 75 years and over.

Other forms of contact with family and friends living outside the household were measured over a three month period. From March to July 2006, 91.0% of the Tasmanian population aged 18 years and over used a fixed telephone to contact family or friends living outside the household. This was followed by mobile phone/SMS (70.4%), Internet such as email or chat rooms (37.0%), and mail (including cards) or fax (26.4%). Fixed telephone and mail were most commonly used by persons aged 65-74 years. Mobile phone/SMS were most commonly used by persons aged 18-24 years. Internet such as email or chat rooms was most commonly used by persons aged 25-34 years. Females were more likely to use mail, fixed telephone and Internet. Males were more likely to use mobile phone/SMS.

The majority of persons aged 18 years and over attended at least one cultural and leisure venue or event in the last 12 months (86.9%). The most visited venues or events were cinemas (58.8%), libraries (43.4%), botanic gardens (37.2%) and museums (37.0%). Females were more likely to attend a cultural and leisure venue or event, while males were more likely to attend or participate in a sporting event or recreational physical activity.

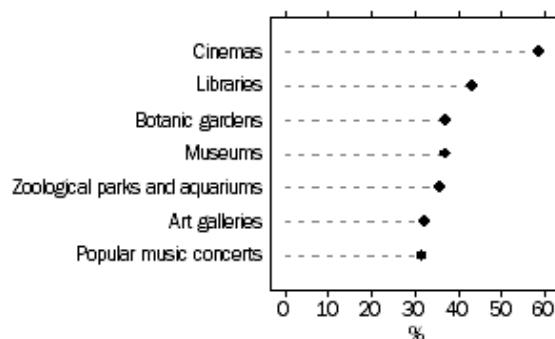
**TYPE OF CONTACT WITH FAMILY OR
FRIENDS
LIVING OUTSIDE THE HOUSEHOLD,
Tasmania, 2006**

**MAIN TYPES OF VENUES OR EVENTS
ATTENDED,
Tasmania, 2006**



Persons aged 18 years and over.

Source: General Social Survey, Tasmania, 2006
(cat. no. 4159.6.55.001)



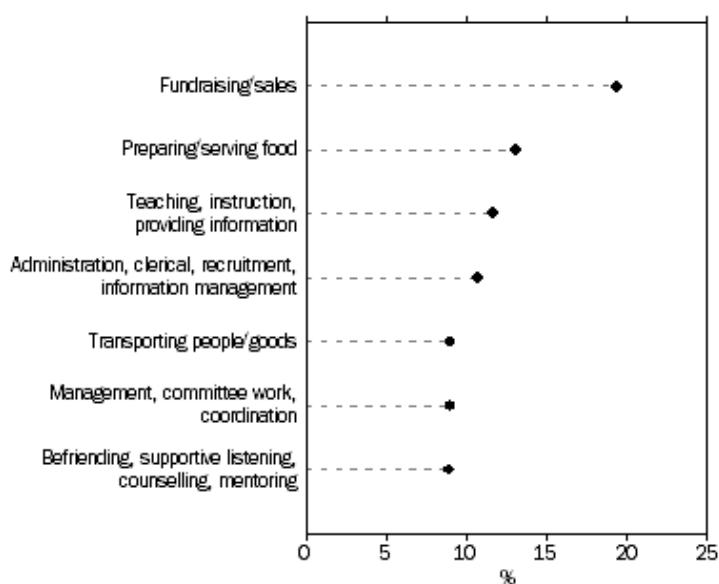
Persons aged 18 years and over.

Source: General Social Survey, Tasmania, 2006
(cat. no. 4159.6.55.001)

VOLUNTARY WORK

According to the General Social Survey 2006, 36.0% of Tasmanians aged 18 years and over undertook voluntary work in the 12 months prior to July 2006. Most volunteers were engaged in fundraising/sales (19.4%) followed by preparing/serving food (13.1%). This trend was reflected in persons aged 25-34 years, 35-44 years, 45-54 years and 55-65 years. Persons aged 18-24 years were primarily engaged in teaching/instruction/providing information (15.0%) followed by fundraising/sales (14.8%). The majority of persons aged 65 years and over were engaged in fundraising/sales (19.6%) followed by administration/clerical/recruitment/information management (12.7%).

TYPE OF VOLUNTARY ACTIVITIES UNDERTAKEN, Tasmania, 2006



Persons aged 18 years and over.

Source: General Social Survey, Tasmania, 2006 (cat. no. 4159.6.55.001)

TYPE OF INTERNET CONNECTION

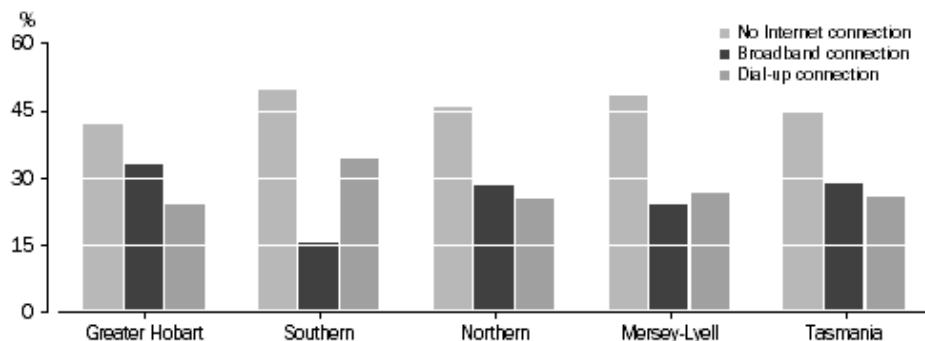
On Census night 2006, more than a quarter of Tasmanian dwellings (excluding not stated) had broadband internet access (28.6%), closely followed by dial-up connection (25.7%). Of all occupied private Tasmanian dwellings, 45.1% had no Internet connection.

Greater Hobart Statistical Division (SD) had the highest proportion of broadband connection (33.2%), compared to dial-up (24.1%). Northern SD reported 28.4% of dwellings with broadband and 25.1% with dial-up. Mersey-Lyell SD reported 24.2% with broadband and 26.7% with dial-up,

and Southern SD reported 15.7% with broadband and 34.2% with dial-up.

Southern SD had the highest proportion of dwellings with no Internet connection (49.6%), followed by Mersey-Lyell SD (48.5%) and Northern SD (45.9%). Greater Hobart SD had the lowest (41.9%).

**TYPE OF INTERNET CONNECTION, TASMANIAN DWELLINGS(a),
By Statistical Division, Tasmania, Census Night 2006**



(a) Excluding not stated.

Source: Census of Population and Housing, 2006.
Data available on request.

ABS SOURCE PUBLICATIONS:

Australian Historic Population Statistics, 2006 (cat no. 3105.0.65.001)

2006 Census of Population and Housing, Community Profiles

Child Care, Australia, 2005 (cat. no. 4402.0)

Children's Participation in Cultural and Leisure Activities, Australia, 2006 (cat. no. 4901.0)

Divorces, Australia, 2006 (cat. no. 3307.0.55.001)

Family Characteristics, Australia, 2003 (cat. no. 4442.0)

General Social Survey, Tasmania, 2006 (cat. no. 4159.6.55.001)

Marriages, Australia, 2006 (cat. no. 3306.0.55.001)

Marriages and Divorces, Australia, 2002 (cat. no. 3310.0)

Household Economic Resources



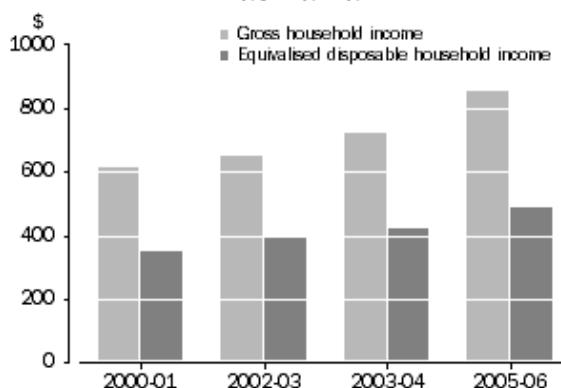
HOUSEHOLD ECONOMIC RESOURCES

GROSS AND EQUIVALISED HOUSEHOLD INCOME

In recent times, Tasmanian households have recorded healthy growth in household income. In 2005-06, the median weekly gross household income in Tasmania was \$850. This was an increase of 18.1% on the 2003-04 estimate of \$720 and 38.9% on the 2000-01 estimate of \$612.

In 2005-06, the Tasmanian median weekly equivalised disposable household income (household income adjusted to facilitate comparison between different sized households) was \$486. This was a 15.7% increase on the 2003-04 estimate of \$420 and a 38.9% increase on the 2000-01 estimate of \$350.

MEDIAN WEEKLY GROSS AND EQUIVALISED DISPOSABLE HOUSEHOLD INCOME, Tasmania

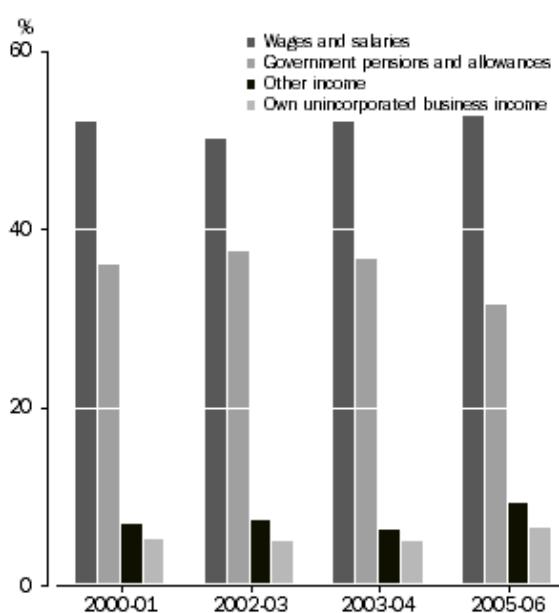


Source: *Household Income and Income Distribution, Aust.* (cat. no. 6523.0)

PRINCIPAL SOURCE OF HOUSEHOLD INCOME

In 2005-06, wages and salaries were the main source of household income in Tasmania. They contributed 52.8% to total household income, followed by a 31.5% contribution from government pensions and allowances, and a 6.5% contribution from unincorporated business income. Government pensions and allowances recorded a decline in their contribution to total household income, from 36.6% in 2003-04 to 31.5% in 2005-06.

PRINCIPAL SOURCE OF HOUSEHOLD INCOME, Tasmania

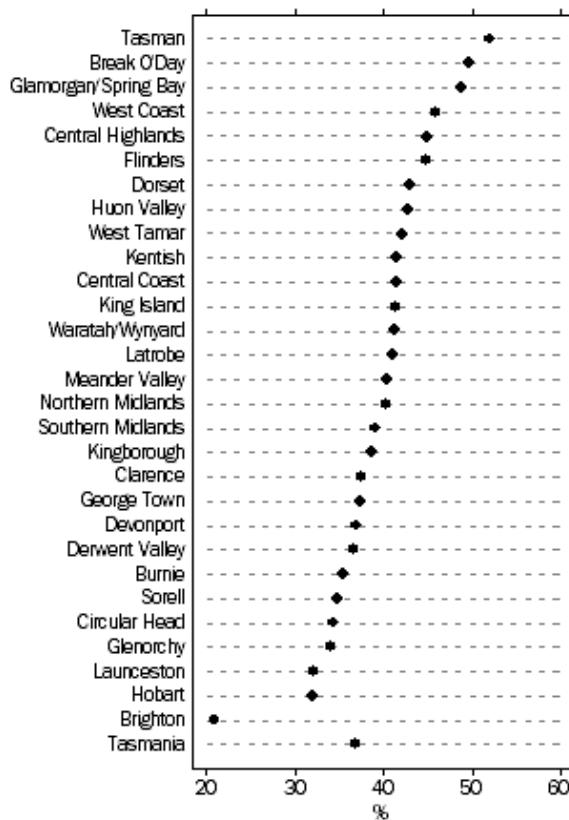


Source: *Household Income and Income Distribution, Aust.* (cat. no. 6523.0)

HOME OWNERSHIP

On Census night 2006, 36.8% of all occupied private dwellings in Tasmania were fully owned. The local government areas (LGAs) with the highest percentage of home ownership were Tasman (52.1%) followed by Break O'Day (49.6%) and Glamorgan/Spring Bay (48.8%). Brighton was the LGA with the lowest percentage of home ownership (20.8%) followed by Hobart (32.0%) and Launceston (32.1%).

HOME OWNERSHIP, Tasmanian occupied private dwellings by LGA

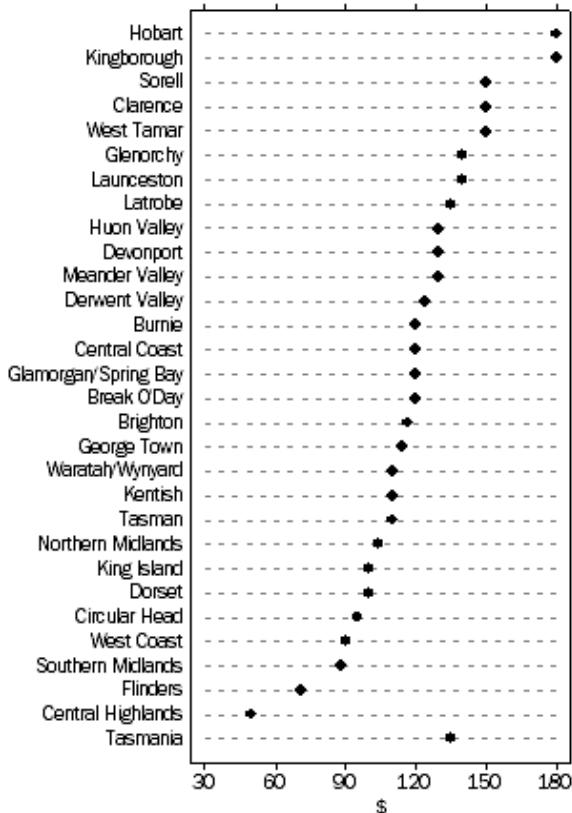


Source: 2006 Census of Population and Housing - Community Profiles

HOUSING RENT PAID

On Census night 2006, the median weekly rent paid for occupied private dwellings in Tasmania was \$135. The most expensive LGAs in which to rent were Hobart and Kingborough, each with a median weekly rent of \$180 followed by West Tamar, Clarence and Sorell with a median weekly rent of \$150. At the same time, Central Highlands LGA was the cheapest place to rent with a median weekly rent of \$50, followed by Flinders (\$71) and Southern Midlands (\$88).

MEDIAN WEEKLY RENT PAID, Tasmanian occupied private dwellings, by LGA

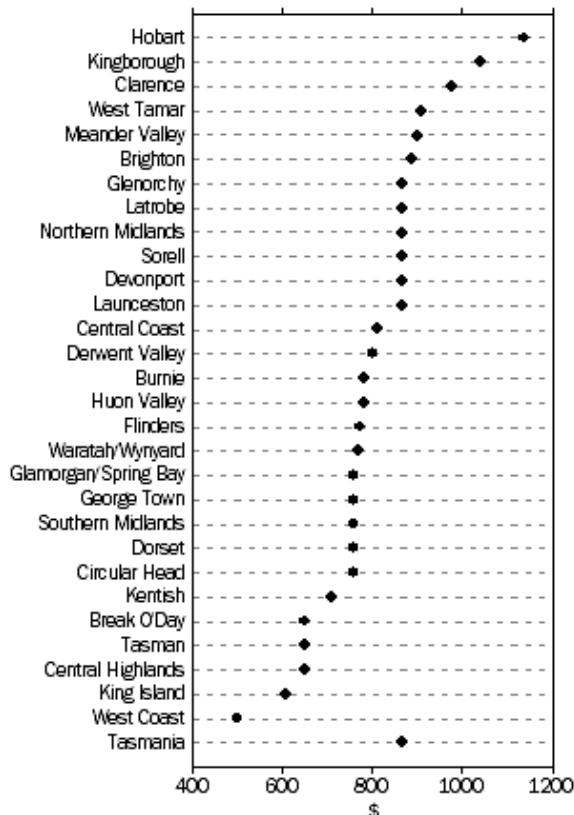


Source: Census of Population and Housing - Community Profiles

HOUSEHOLD HOUSING LOAN REPAYMENT

On Census night 2006, the median monthly home loan repayment for occupied private dwellings in Tasmania was \$867. Hobart residents had the highest median monthly home loan repayment (\$1,138), followed by Kingborough residents (\$1,040) and Clarence residents (\$975). West Coast residents had the lowest median monthly home loan repayment (\$500), followed by King Island residents (\$609), and Break O'Day, Central Highlands and Tasman residents (all with \$650).

MEDIAN MONTHLY HOUSING LOAN REPAYMENT, Tasmanian occupied private dwellings, by LGA



Source: Census of Population and Housing - Community Profiles

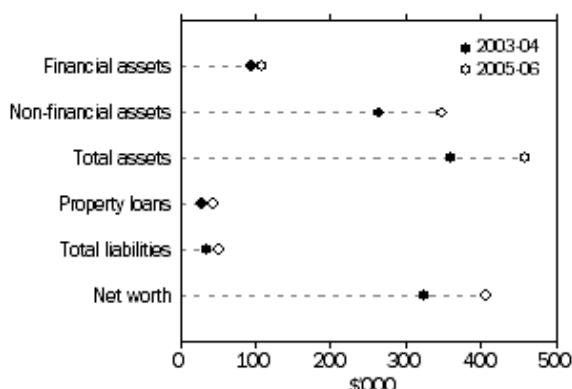
HOUSEHOLD EXPENDITURE

In 2003-04, food and non-alcoholic beverages accounted for the largest expenditure by Tasmanian households on goods and services, contributing 17.8% of total household expenditure. (Expenditure on these items has declined from 19.3% in 1993-94 and from 18.3% in 1998-99.)

Transport was the second biggest expenditure item in 2003-04, contributing 16.9% of total household expenditure. (Expenditure on this item has increased from 14.9% in 1993-94 and from 16.0% in 1998-99.)

In 2003-04, housing costs contributed 13.0% of total household expenditure. (Expenditure on this item has increased from 11.4% in 1993-94 and from 11.9% in 1998-99.)

PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL GOODS AND SERVICES EXPENDITURE, Tasmania

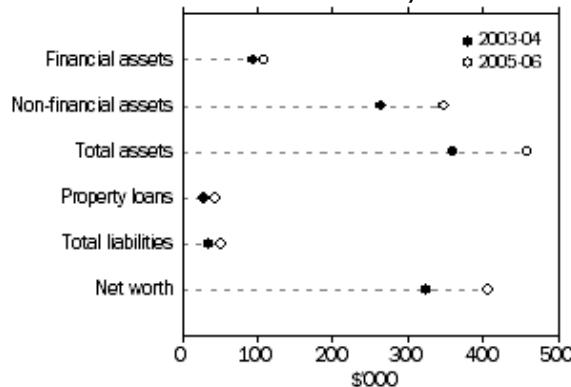


Source: Household Wealth and Wealth Distribution, Aust. (cat. no. 6554.0)

HOUSEHOLD ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

In 2005-06, average (mean) household net worth in Tasmania was \$406,600 compared to \$324,900 in 2003-04. Average household assets in 2005-06 were \$458,500 comprising of \$109,200 in financial assets and \$349,200 in non-financial assets. On the other side of the ledger, average Tasmanian household liabilities in 2005-06 were \$51,800 of which property loans contributed \$44,900.

HOUSEHOLD ASSETS AND LIABILITIES, Tasmanian households



Source: Household Wealth and Wealth Distribution, Aust. (cat. no. 6554.0)

ABS SOURCE PUBLICATIONS:

2006 Census of Population and Housing, Community Profiles

Household Income and Income Distribution, Australia (cat. no. 6523.0)

Government Benefits, Taxes and Household Income, Australia (cat. no. 6537.0)

Housing Occupancy and Costs, Australia, Detailed Tables (cat. no. 4130.0.55.001)

Household Expenditure Survey, Australia (cat. no. 6530.0)

Household Wealth and Wealth Distribution (cat. no. 6554.0)

Index of Feature Articles



INDEX OF FEATURE ARTICLES

30/04/08 | Ageing in Tasmania, 2006: Australia has an ageing population, with Tasmania the oldest and fastest ageing of the States and Territories. This article explores what we know about Tasmania's ageing population through analysing a selected range of indicators from the 2006 Population Census.

31/01/08 | Tasmanian Housing Indicators: This article presents a range of housing indicators for Tasmania, drawn from a variety of ABS sources. It aims to illustrate the wider economic influences behind recent movements in the supply, demand and price of housing in Tasmania.

About this Release

A compendium of summary statistical information about Tasmania. Information is presented by topic, with more detailed data in Excel spreadsheets. Contains summary commentary, tables, maps and graphs. Some non-ABS and regional data is also included. Topics covered include labour force, wages and prices, tourism, finance, state accounts, population, household and family characteristics, education, health and environment.

Replaces: Statistics, Tasmania (1384.6) and Regional Statistics, Tasmania (1362.6).

Ageing in Tasmania (Feature Article)

AGEING IN TASMANIA, 2006 (selected indicators)

[Introduction](#)
[Population](#)
[Living Arrangements](#)
[Unpaid Work and Care](#)
[Data Sources](#)
[Glossary](#)
[Explanatory Notes](#)

INTRODUCTION

Australia has an ageing population. Tasmania's population has the oldest age structure of all the states and territories of Australia, and is ageing at a faster rate. The main drivers behind the ageing population trend in Tasmania and Australia are declining fertility rates and increased life expectancy. Net interstate migration has also contributed to Tasmania's ageing population trend. As well, Tasmania's population is ageing both numerically (an increase in the number of people aged 65 years and over in a population) and structurally (an increase in the proportion of a population aged 65 years and over).

In June 2007, Australia's population reached 21 million. However, the general trend in fertility points to fewer Australians being born. One of the main factors behind the sustained low fertility rate is the age at which females first give birth. With access to effective contraception, legalised abortion, and increased opportunities to pursue higher education, forge a career path and establish financial independence, women now have greater choice than ever before about whether/when to have children.

In 2006, the median age of mothers (all confinements) in Tasmania was 29.3 years (30.8 years Australia) compared with 28.3 years in 1996 (29.2 years Australia). Delayed child-bearing creates its own natural limits on family size and increases the likelihood of childlessness. Not only are women having fewer children, but over time, the number of women of child-bearing age in the population is decreasing. These factors contribute to declining fertility.

A decrease in fertility leads to a smaller proportion of a population in younger age groups and a greater proportion of a population in older age groups, while increased life expectancy increases the number of older persons in a population. Issues associated with an increased proportion of older persons will have a significant impact on the social and economic future of Tasmania.

Over the last 10 years, as populations of both Tasmania and Australia have aged, so the proportion of children has decreased. Children (aged 0-14 years) accounted for 19.7% of the Tasmanian population at the 2006 Census (19.8% Australia), compared with 22.5% in 1996

(21.6% Australia). In 2006, females in Tasmania had given birth to an average of 1.9 children. However, females in Tasmania aged 65 years and over had given birth to an average of 3.0 children (2.8 Australia).

Conversely, both the number and proportion of older persons in Tasmania have increased, reinforcing the fact that Tasmania is ageing both numerically and structurally. The proportion of the Tasmanian population aged 65 years and over increased from 12.8% in 1996 (12.1% Australia) to 14.9% in 2006 (13.3% Australia). The proportion of persons aged 85 years and over increased from 1.2% in 1996 to 1.8% in 2006.

Population ageing has been identified as an area of statistical priority for the State. This article describes the characteristics of Tasmania's ageing population in 2006, based on Census data, with particular regard to living arrangements, need for assistance, and unpaid work and care. Care should be exercised when comparing Census data in this article with information from other data sources, such as sample surveys, due to differences in collection methodologies.

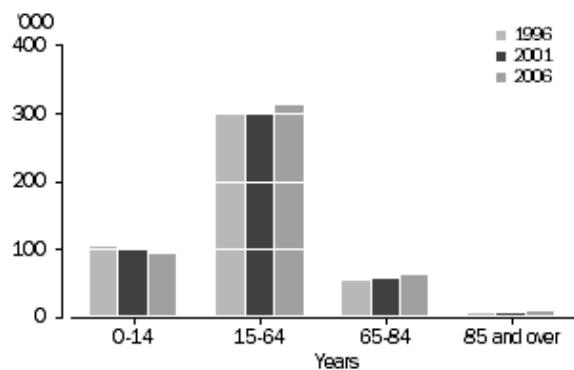
[Back to top](#)

POPULATION

Population of Tasmania

- On Census night, 8 August 2006, there were 476,481 persons usually resident in Tasmania.
- There were 71,141 (14.9%) persons aged 65 years and over (13.3% Australia).
- Of these, 62,605 (88.0%) were aged 65-84 years and 8,536 (12.0%) were aged 85 years and over.
- Females accounted for 55.4% of all persons aged 65 years and over.
- There were 33,529 females (53.6%) aged 65-84 years compared with 29,076 males (46.4%).
- The proportion of females aged 85 years and over (68.5%) was more than double that of males (31.5%).
- There were 77 centenarians reported in the 2006 Census. Of these, 56 were female (72.7%) and 21 were male (27.3%).
- The median age of the Tasmanian population was 39 years (37 years Australia).

USUAL RESIDENT POPULATION, by age, Tasmania, 1996-2006



Source: Census of Population and Housing, 1996, 2001, 2006
ABS data available on request

Population Change, Tasmania, 1996-2006

- The number of children (aged 0-14 years) decreased by 10,438, from 104,462 (22.5%) in 1996 to 94,024 (19.7%) in 2006.
- The working age population (aged 15-64 years) increased by 10,727, from 300,589

(64.7%) in 1996 to 311,316 (65.3%) in 2006.

- The number of persons aged 65-84 years increased by 8,460, from 54,145 (11.7%) in 1996 to 62,605 (13.1%) in 2006.
- The number of persons aged 85 years and over increased by 3,186 persons, from 5,350 (1.2%) in 1996 to 8,536 (1.8%) in 2006.
- The median age of the Tasmanian population increased from 34 years in 1996 to 39 years in 2006.
- Life expectancy for females at birth increased from 80.0 years in 1996 to 82.3 years in 2006.
- Life expectancy for males at birth increased from 74.1 years in 1996 to 77.4 years in 2006.

In the 10 years since the 1996 Census, the population of Tasmania increased by 11,935 (2.6%). All age groups above 45 years experienced an increase in population, while all age groups below 45 years experienced a decrease. There was a significant exodus of young working age persons of reproductive age, in the 25-29 years age group. Tasmania lost one fifth (20.6%) of its population in this age group between 1996 and 2006, largely due to interstate out-migration. This produced a double-edged effect, where Tasmania lost not only its young people, but also their potential children and hence, the young people of the future.

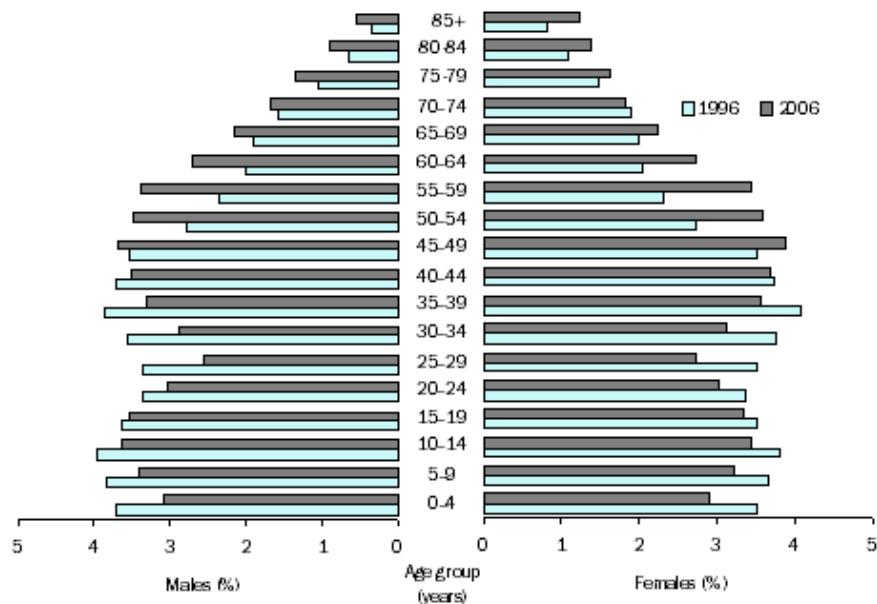
Conversely, the largest increase in numbers over the same period occurred in the 55-59 years age group. This age group grew by 10,852, an increase of 49.7%. This was partly due to the 'Baby Boomer' cohort progressing into the older end of the working age population. It can also, in part, be attributed to interstate migration, as Tasmania continued to attract older people to take up the relaxed lifestyle of Australia's clean, green state. The combined effect of younger Tasmanians leaving the state and older people migrating from interstate has resulted in the population ageing at a faster rate than anywhere else in the country.

The number of persons aged 65-84 years increased by 8,460 (15.6%), from 54,145 in 1996 to 62,605 in 2006. The number of males aged 65-84 years increased from 24,143 in 1996 to 29,076 in 2006, an increase of 20.4%. The number of females aged 65-84 years increased from 30,002 in 1996 to 33,529 in 2006, an increase of 11.8%. While females continued to dominate this age group, the proportion of males increased from 44.6% in 1996 to 46.4% in 2006.

The number of persons aged 85 years and over also increased markedly (59.6%), from 5,350 persons in 1996 to 8,536 in 2006. The number of males aged 85 years and over increased from 1,597 in 1996 to 2,686 in 2006, an increase of 68.2%. The number of females aged 85 years and over increased from 3,753 in 1996 to 5,850 in 2006, an increase of 55.9%. While females also continued to dominate this age group, the proportion of males increased slightly, from 29.9% in 1996 to 31.5% in 2006.

The following population pyramid highlights the changes in the Tasmanian age structure between 1996 and 2006:

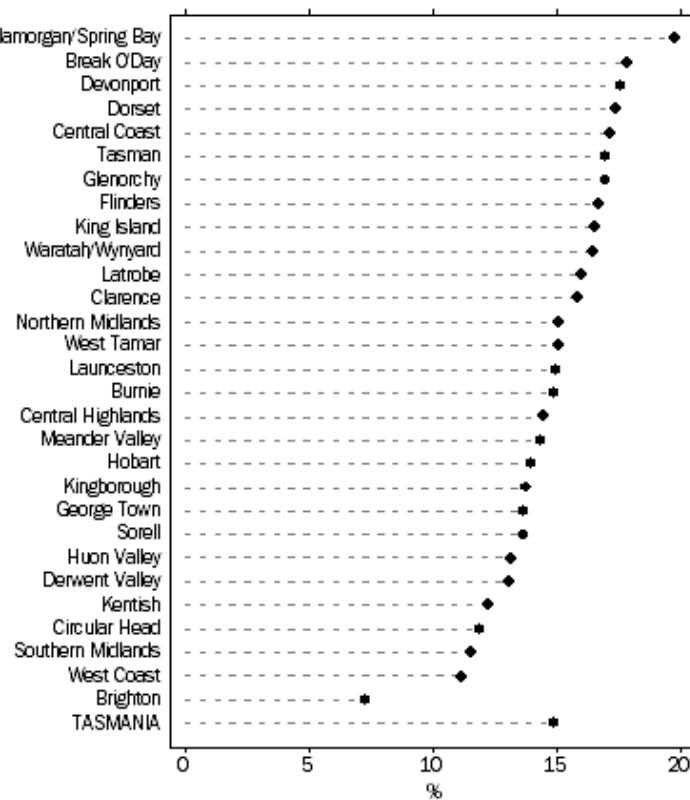
POPULATION CHANGE, Tasmania, 1996-2006



Source: Census of population and Housing, 1996, 2006
ABS data available on request

Of Tasmania's 29 Local Government Areas (LGAs), more than half (16) had a higher proportion of persons aged 65 years and over than the State average of 14.9%. Glamorgan/Spring Bay (19.8%) had the highest proportion of the population aged 65 years and over, followed by Break O'Day (17.9%), Devonport (17.6%), Dorset (17.4%) and Central Coast (17.2%). Brighton (7.3%) had the lowest, followed by West Coast (11.2%) and Southern Midlands (11.6%).

PROPORTION OF POPULATION AGED 65 YEARS AND OVER, by LGA, 2006



Source: Census of Population and Housing, 2006
ABS data available on request

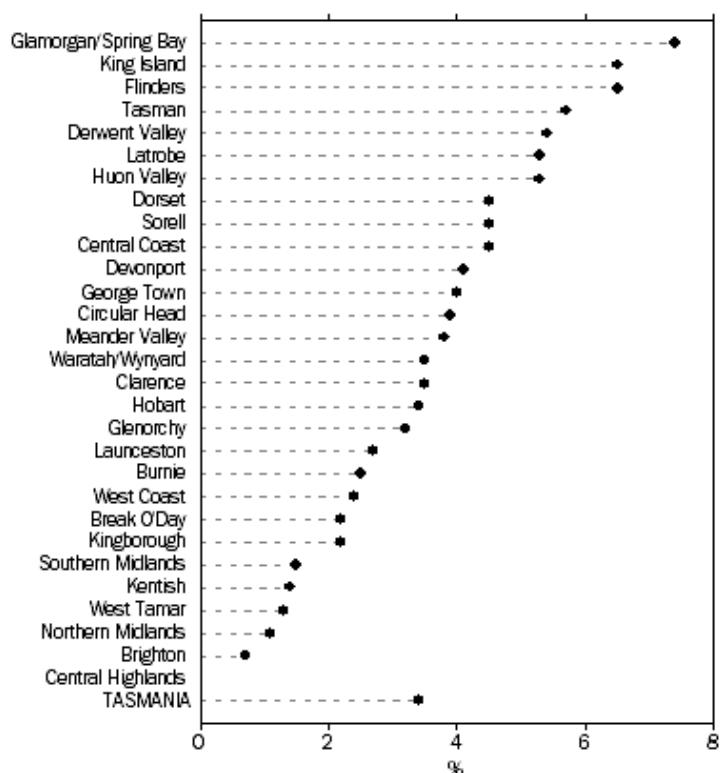
Indigenous Population

The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population in Tasmania has a younger age structure than the general population. Among Indigenous people in Tasmania:

- Children (aged 0-14 years) accounted for 36.3% of the population, nearly double the proportion of children in the total Tasmanian population (19.7%).
- The working age population (aged 15-64 years) accounted for 60.4% compared with 65.3% for Tasmania.
- Older persons (aged 65 years and over) accounted for 3.4% compared with 14.9% for Tasmania.
- The median age of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population was 20 years compared with 40 years for the non-Indigenous population in Tasmania.

Of all persons aged 65 years and over usually resident in Tasmania, 0.9% were of Indigenous origin. Glamorgan/Spring Bay (7.4%) had the highest proportion of its reported Indigenous population aged 65 years and over, followed by King Island and Flinders (both 6.5%) and Tasman (5.7%).

PROPORTION OF INDIGENOUS POPULATION AGED 65 YEARS AND OVER, by LGA, 2006



Excludes not stated.

Source: Census of Population and Housing, 2006
ABS data available on request

Proficiency in Spoken English

Lack of proficiency in spoken English has the potential to affect a person's ability to access appropriate facilities and services. In particular, it may be a barrier to accessing health and care services. It may also limit opportunities for social interaction. As ageing occurs, older persons may lose proficiency in English and revert to their first language. This may impose added complexity to the care of older persons whose first language is other than English. It may be that specific language and cultural skills are required to care for this population group.

In 2006, Tasmania recorded 50,543 usual residents who had been born overseas (4,416,037 Australia). This represented 10.6% of the Tasmanian population (22.2% Australia). Tasmania had the lowest proportion of persons born overseas of any state or territory.

Of persons usually resident in Tasmania:

- 90.8% were Australian citizens (86.1% Australia)
- 83.2% were born in Australia (70.9% Australia)
- 10.6% were born overseas (22.2% Australia)
- 4.0% were born in England (4.3% Australia)
- 0.9% were born in New Zealand (2.0% Australia)
- 0.6% were born in Scotland (0.7% Australia)
- 0.5% were born in The Netherlands (0.4% Australia)
- 0.4% were born in Germany (0.5% Australia)

Low proficiency in spoken English is not a major issue in Tasmania. Of the total population of usual residents in Tasmania, 438,165 persons (92.0%) spoke only English at home (78.5% Australia), 15,210 persons (3.2%) whose first language was other than English spoke English very well or well (13.1% Australia) and 2,215 persons (0.5%) whose first language was other than English spoke English either not very well or not at all (2.8% Australia). Not stated accounted for 4.4% (5.6% Australia).

Only a small proportion of older persons in Tasmania had low proficiency in spoken English. Of persons aged 65 years and over, 89.1% spoke only English at home (77.2% Australia), 4.1% whose first language was other than English spoke English either very well or well (10.1% Australia), and 0.7% whose first language was other than English spoke English either not very well or not at all (6.2% Australia). Not stated accounted for 6.2% (6.5% Australia).

Hobart (2.3%) had the highest proportion of older persons, aged 65 years and over, who were not proficient in spoken English, followed by Brighton (1.5%) and Glenorchy (1.4%).

[Back to top](#)

LIVING ARRANGEMENTS

Living Arrangements for Persons aged 65 years and over

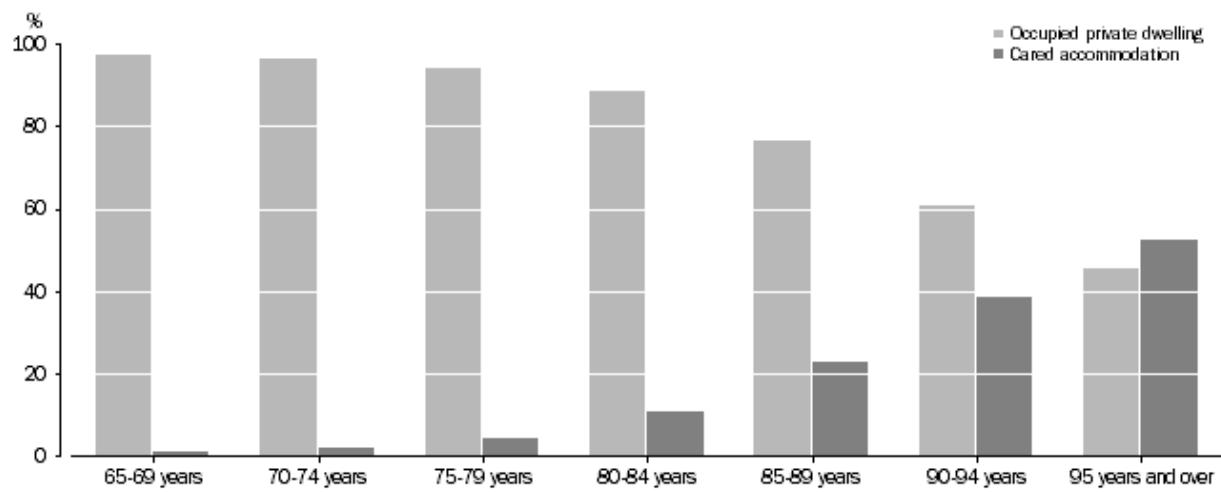
Living arrangements reflect the changes in circumstances that often accompany the ageing process, such as the loss of a partner, the availability or lack of carers, a decline in health and a possible increase in disability.

Of the 71,141 persons aged 65 years and over usually resident in Tasmania on Census night in 2006, 91.9% lived in private dwellings, and the remaining 8.1% lived in non-private dwellings.

More than half (53.8%) of persons aged 65 years and over living in a private dwelling lived with their partner, while 6.5% lived with one or more relatives other than their partner. A further 29.8% lived alone.

Of persons aged 65 years and over living in a non-private dwelling, 86.0% lived in cared accommodation. Of these, 57.8% lived in nursing homes, 16.8% lived in accommodation for the retired or aged (not self-contained), and 11.3% lived in hospitals.

DWELLING TYPE, persons aged 65 years and over, Tasmania, 2006



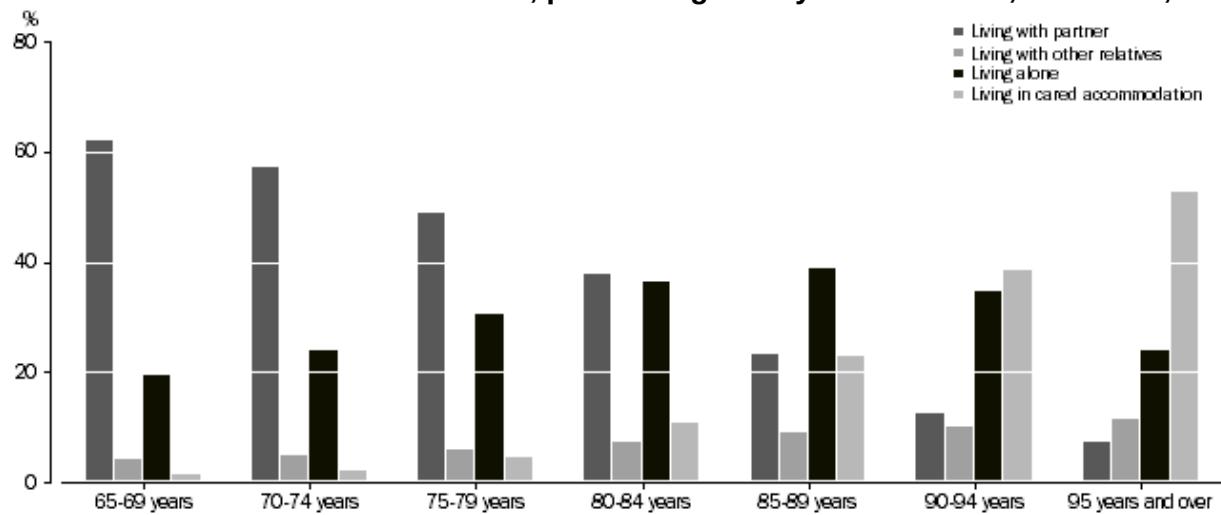
Cared accommodation includes nursing homes, hospitals and accommodation for the retired or aged (not self-contained).

Source: Census of Population and Housing, 2006

ABS data available on request

In 2006, the proportion of older persons living in private dwellings with their partner decreased from 62.1% of those aged 65-69 years to 19.3% of those aged 85 years and over. The proportion of older persons living alone increased from 19.4% of persons aged 65-69 years to 36.7% of those aged 85 years and over. Older persons living with a relative other than their partner increased from 4.2% of those aged 65-69 years to 9.5% of persons aged 85 years and over.

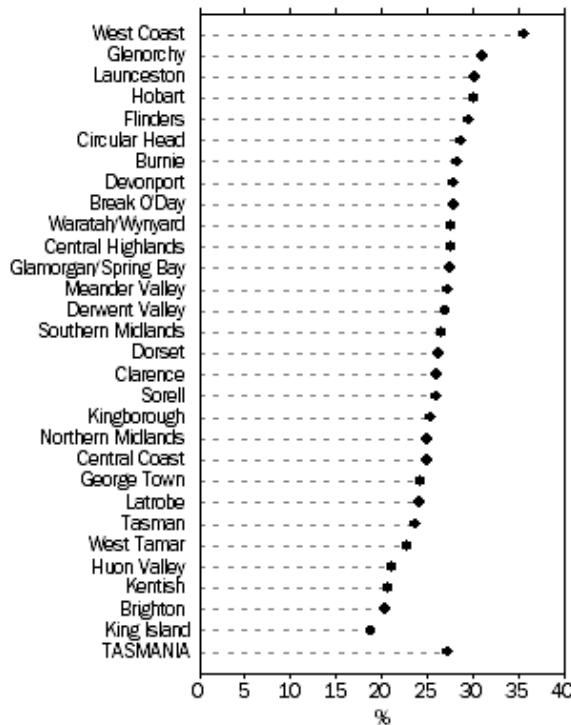
SELECTED LIVING ARRANGEMENTS, persons aged 65 years and over, Tasmania, 2006



Source: Census of Population and Housing, 2006
ABS data available on request

Of Tasmania's LGAs, West Coast (35.7%) had the highest proportion of persons aged 65 years and over living alone, followed by Glenorchy (31.1%) and Launceston (30.3%). King Island (18.8%) had the lowest proportion of older people living alone, followed by Brighton (20.3%) and Kentish (20.7%).

PERSONS LIVING ALONE, aged 65 years and over, by LGA, 2006



Source: Census of Population and Housing, 2006
ABS data available on request

Cared Accommodation

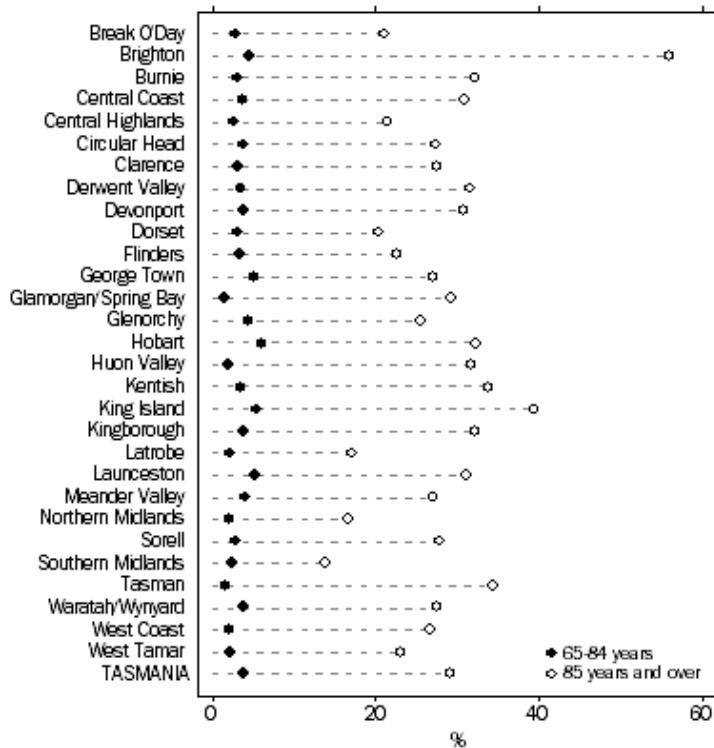
On Census night 2006, 6.9% of Tasmanians aged 65 years and over were living in cared accommodation such as nursing homes, hospitals and accommodation for the retired or aged (not self-contained). Hobart and Brighton (both 10.4%) had the highest proportion of persons aged 65 years and over living in cared accommodation, followed by King Island (9.6%), Launceston (9.0%) and Devonport (7.5%). Central Highlands and Northern Midlands (both 3.4%) had the lowest, followed by Southern Midlands and Latrobe (both 3.5%) and West Coast (4.1%).

Of those persons aged 65 years and over living in cared accommodation, 49.5% were aged 65-84 years and 50.5% were aged 85 years and over.

Of those persons aged 65-84 years, 3.9% lived in cared accommodation. Hobart (6.1%) had the highest proportion of persons living in cared accommodation, followed by King Island (5.5%), Launceston (5.2%), George Town (5.1%) and Brighton (4.6%). Glamorgan/Spring Bay (1.5%) had the lowest, followed by Tasman (1.7%), Huon Valley (2.0%), Northern Midlands and West Coast (both 2.1%).

Almost one-third (29.2%) of persons aged 85 years and over lived in cared accommodation. Brighton (56.0%) had the highest proportion, followed by King Island (39.4%), Tasman (34.4%), Kentish (33.9%) and Hobart (32.4%). Southern Midlands (13.8%) had the lowest, followed by Northern Midlands (16.7%) and Latrobe (17.2%).

PERSONS LIVING IN CARED ACCOMMODATION, aged 65 years and over, by LGA, 2006



Cared accommodation includes nursing homes, hospitals and accommodation for the retired or aged (not self-contained).

Source: Census of Population and Housing, 2006
ABS data available on request

NEED FOR ASSISTANCE

More people are surviving to older ages. The likelihood of disability and the severity of disability both increase with age. Many old people have a need for assistance due to frailty and illness. For many Tasmanians, increased life expectancy will mean they are likely to be living with a disability for longer.

Questions on 'Core Activity Need for Assistance' were asked for the first time in the 2006 Census. The new topic identified people who needed assistance with one or more of the three core activities (self-care, mobility and/or communication), some or all of the time, due to disability, a long-term health condition (lasting six months or more) or old age. The 'Core Activity Need for Assistance' concept is relatable to the profound/severe core activity limitation category in other surveys, and as such, represents the more severe end of the disability spectrum.

The 2006 Census revealed that 23,655 Tasmanians (5.2% of the population) required daily assistance with self-care, mobility or communication because of a long-term health condition, disability or old age (4.4% Australia). A need for assistance was reported by 5.6% of all females and 4.9% of all males. Tasmania had the highest proportion of need for assistance of all the states and territories in Australia, followed by South Australia (5.1%). This higher than average result reflects the older population profile of these two states. (It is important to note that 5.3% of Tasmanians did not state whether or not they needed assistance and have therefore been excluded from the population when calculating rates.)

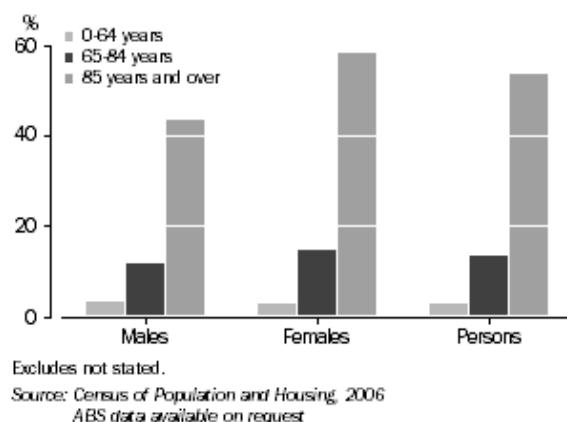
PROPORTION OF POPULATION WITH A CORE ACTIVITY NEED FOR ASSISTANCE, 2006



Of the Tasmanian population as a whole (excluding those for whom need for assistance with core activities was not stated):

- 13.3% of persons aged 65-84 years reported a need for assistance.
- 53.6% of persons aged 85 years and over reported a need for assistance.
- Of all males aged 65-84 years, 11.7% reported a need for assistance.
- Of all females aged 65-84 years, 14.8% reported a need for assistance.
- Of all males aged 85 years and over, 43.6% reported a need for assistance.
- Of all females aged 85 years and over, 58.2% reported a need for assistance.

PROPORTION OF POPULATION WITH A CORE ACTIVITY NEED FOR ASSISTANCE, Tasmania, 2006



Of all people reporting a need for assistance with core activities:

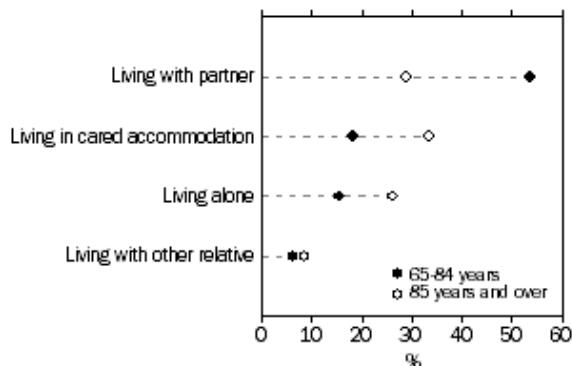
- Older persons aged 65 years and over accounted for 50.3%. Of these, 64.5% were female.
- Persons aged 65-84 years accounted for 33.0%. Of these, 59.3% were female.
- Persons aged 85 years and over accounted for 17.2%. Of these, 74.4% were female.

Of males aged 65-84 years with a core activity need for assistance, more than half (53.7%) lived with a partner, 18.2% lived in cared accommodation, 15.6% lived alone and 6.2% lived with other relatives. Of males aged 85 years and over with a core activity need for assistance, 33.5% lived in cared accommodation, 28.8% lived with a partner, 26.2% lived alone and 8.4% lived with other relatives.

Of females aged 65-84 years with a core activity need for assistance, 29.6% lived with a partner, 27.9% lived alone, 23.8% lived in cared accommodation and 13.4% lived with other relatives. Of females aged 85 years and over with a core activity need for assistance, half (50.5%) lived in

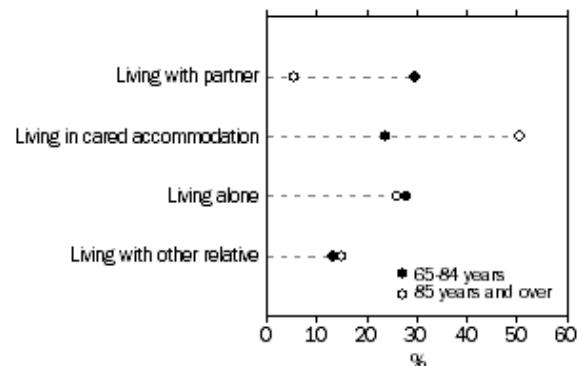
cared accommodation, 26.0% lived alone, 15.0% lived with other relatives and 5.5% lived with a partner.

LIVING ARRANGEMENTS, males who reported a need for assistance, Tasmania, 2006



Source: Census of Population and Housing, 2006
ABS data available on request

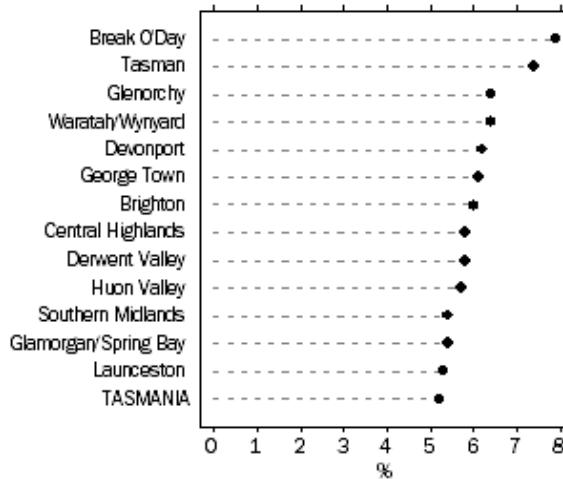
LIVING ARRANGEMENTS, females who reported a need for assistance, Tasmania, 2006



Source: Census of Population and Housing, 2006
ABS data available on request

Of Tasmania's 29 LGAs, 13 had a higher proportion of all persons needing assistance than the State average of 5.2%. Break O'Day (7.9%) had the highest proportion, followed by Tasman (7.4%), Glenorchy and Waratah/Wynyard (both 6.4%) and Devonport (6.2%).

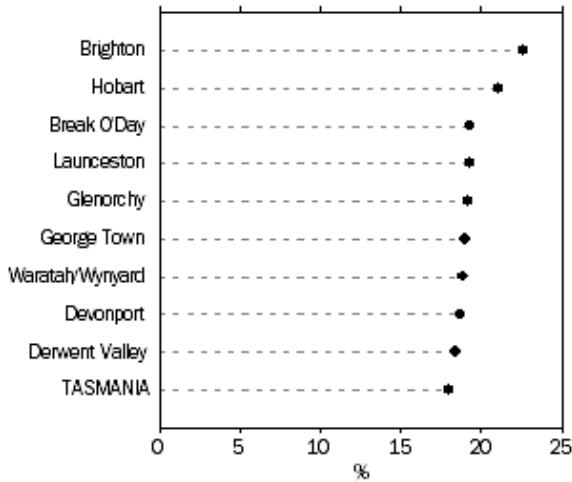
PROPORTION OF ALL PERSONS WITH A NEED FOR ASSISTANCE HIGHER THAN THE STATE AVERAGE, by LGA, 2006



Excludes not stated.
Source: Census of Population and Housing, 2006
ABS data available on request

Of persons aged 65 years and over usually resident in Tasmania, 18.0% reported a core activity need for assistance. Of Tasmania's 29 LGAs, 9 had a proportion of persons in this age group needing assistance higher than the State average. Brighton (22.6%) had the highest proportion, followed by Hobart (21.1%), Break O'Day and Launceston (both 19.3%) and Glenorchy (19.2%).

PROPORTION OF PERSONS AGED 65 YEARS AND OVER WITH A NEED FOR ASSISTANCE HIGHER THAN THE STATE AVERAGE, by LGA, 2006



Excludes not stated.

Source: Census of Population and Housing, 2006
ABS data available on request

[Back to top](#)

UNPAID WORK AND CARE

Unpaid work makes a valuable contribution to Australian society. Questions on unpaid work were asked for the first time in the 2006 Census. The new topic included provision of unpaid assistance to a person with a disability, long term illness or problems related to old age; provision of unpaid child care; unpaid domestic work; and voluntary work for an organisation or group. It is important to note there is not necessarily a direct correspondence between persons with a need for assistance and people that provided unpaid assistance. People who provided unpaid care may have provided care to people not identified by the Census as having a need for assistance, and vice versa.

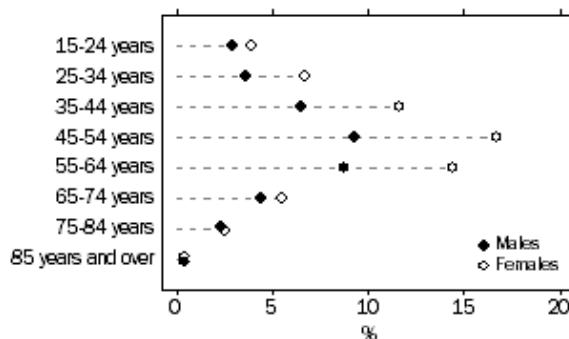
Unpaid Assistance to a Person with a Disability

The likelihood of becoming a carer increases with age, with caring responsibilities for children, ageing parents and partners. Many people now face a dual caring role: looking after ageing parents as well as children. However, a combination of low fertility, delayed child-bearing and young Tasmanians leaving the State has resulted in a diminished resource pool of potential workers and carers. Hence, there is a growing trend towards community care and "ageing in place", where residents can remain in their own home with appropriate support. Relatives and friends provide a major part of the assistance needed, while government, commercial and private non-profit sources provide additional support.

In the two weeks prior to Census night 2006, 11.8% of people aged 15 years and over usually resident in Tasmania spent time providing unpaid assistance to family members or others because of a disability, a long-term illness or problems relating to old age. Just over one-quarter of these carers (26.1%) were aged 45-54 years, followed by persons aged 55-64 years (23.1%), persons aged 39-44 years (18.1%) and persons aged 65 years and over (15.5%). The proportion of persons providing unpaid assistance decreased markedly from 65 years onwards, as people became more likely to require assistance themselves or recipients died.

The majority of unpaid caregivers were female, providing 61.8% of all unpaid assistance by those aged 15 years and over. Females were the main providers of unpaid care in all age groups under 85 years of age. Females aged 45-54 years provided the highest proportion of unpaid care (16.7%), followed by females aged 55-64 years (14.4%) and females aged 35-44 years (11.6%). Males and females aged 85 years and over provided the least amount of unpaid care (both 0.4%).

PERSONS PROVIDING UNPAID ASSISTANCE TO A PERSON WITH A DISABILITY, LONG TERM ILLNESS OR PROBLEMS RELATING TO OLD AGE, Tasmania, 2006



Persons aged 15 years and over.

Source: Census of Population and Housing, 2006

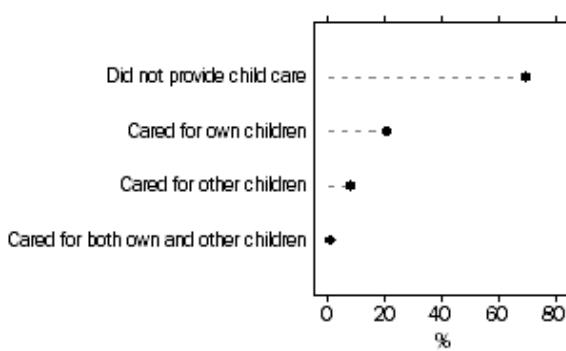
ABS data available on request

Unpaid Child Care

Child care is a major issue in today's society. Families may use formal child care or informal child care, or a combination of both, to help them care for their children. Many older persons are taking on the role of caring for children without pay. It is likely that many of these situations involve grandparents caring for their grandchildren.

In the two weeks prior to Census night 2006, 30.4% of Tasmanians aged 15 years and over spent time performing unpaid care for children aged under 15 years. Of these, 68.7% cared for their own children, 27.1% cared for other children, and 4.1% cared for both their own and other children. Of those caring for other children, persons aged 45-54 years accounted for 20.0%. Persons aged 55 years and over accounted for 47.0%, persons aged 55-64 years accounted for 29.5%, while persons aged 65 years and over accounted for 17.5%.

PROVISION OF UNPAID CHILD CARE, Tasmania, 2006

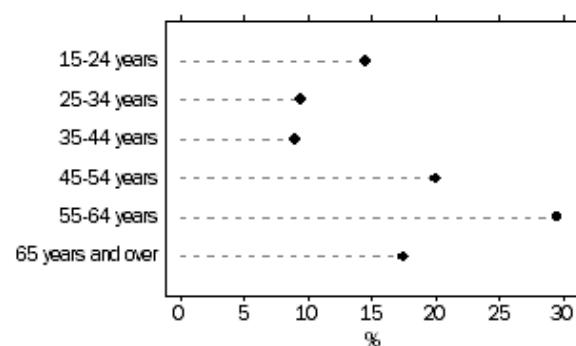


Persons aged 15 years and over, excludes not stated.

Source: Census of Population and Housing, 2006

ABS data available on request

PROVISION OF UNPAID CARE FOR OTHER CHILDREN, Tasmania, 2006



Persons aged 15 years and over, excludes not stated.

Source: Census of Population and Housing, 2006

ABS data available on request

Voluntary Work

Questions on voluntary work were asked for the first time in the 2006 Census. The new topic included help willingly given in the form of time, service or skills, to a club, organisation or association, such as:

- assisting at organised events and with sports organisations

- helping with organised school events and activities
- assisting in churches, hospitals, nursing homes and charities
- other kinds of volunteer work (e.g. emergency services, etc.)

Voluntary work excluded:

- unpaid work done through a club, organisation or association in order to qualify for government benefits such as Newstart Allowance
- any activity which was part of a person's paid employment or family business

Voluntary work makes an invaluable contribution to Australian society, both economically and socially. It fosters community spirit and fulfils community needs. Many Tasmanians are committed to contributing to their community. In the twelve months preceding the 2006 Census, 76,900 Tasmanians aged 15 years and over had spent time doing unpaid voluntary work for an organisation or group. This represented 22.0% of the usual resident population aged 15 years and over who stated whether or not they had participated in voluntary work (19.8% Australia). Around one in five Tasmanians aged less than 65 years (22.3%) had participated in unpaid voluntary work. A similar proportion (22.4%) of persons aged 65-84 years had participated in unpaid voluntary work, indicating that Tasmanians rely heavily on older volunteers.

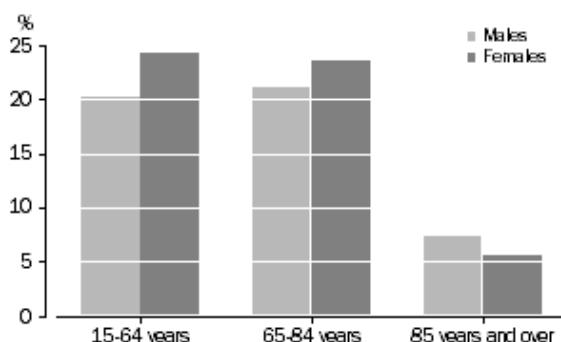
The age profile of Tasmanian volunteers was as follows:

- Persons aged 15-64 years, 22.3% (19.9% Australia)
- Persons aged 65-84 years, 22.4% (21.1% Australia)
- Persons aged 85 years and over, 6.2% (6.9% Australia)

Of persons participating in unpaid voluntary work for an organisation or group, around one in six (16.0%) were persons aged 65 years and over. More than half of the volunteers in this age group (56.3%) were female.

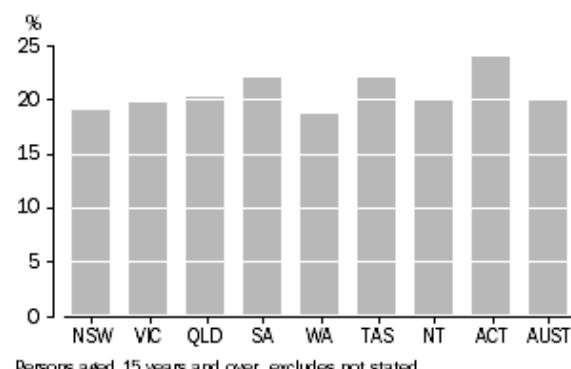
In Tasmania, almost one-quarter (23.7%) of all females and 15.6% of all males aged 15 years and over had participated in unpaid voluntary work. Tasmania had the third highest participation rate in the country, after the Australian Capital Territory (23.9%) and South Australia (22.1%).

**UNPAID VOLUNTARY WORK,
Tasmania, 2006**



Persons aged 15 years and over, excludes not stated.
Source: Census of Population and Housing, 2006
ABS data available on request

UNPAID VOLUNTARY WORK, 2006

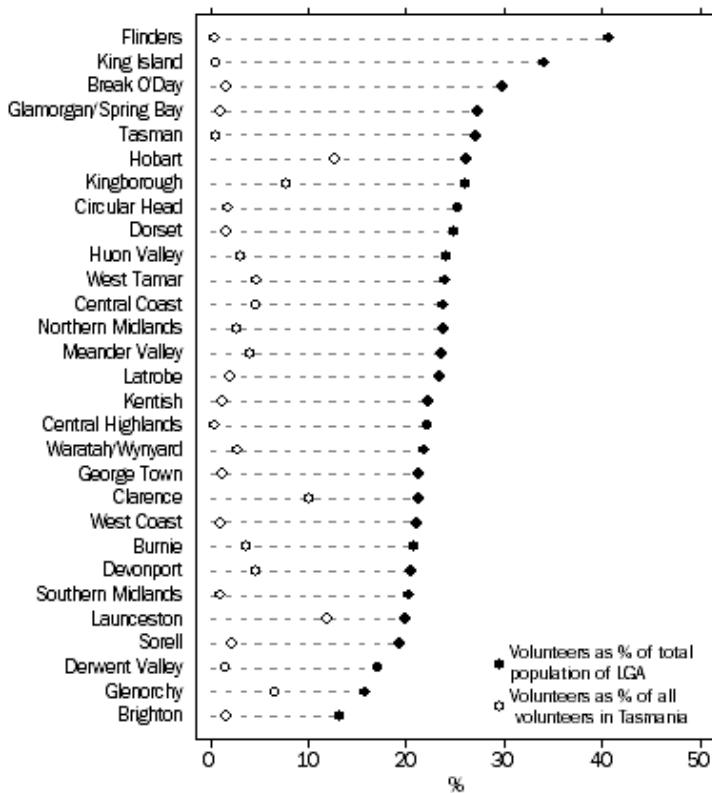


Persons aged 15 years and over, excludes not stated.
Source: Census of Population and Housing, 2006
ABS data available on request

In terms of total volunteers, the big population centres had the highest number of people engaged in unpaid voluntary work. Of Tasmania's volunteers, Hobart accounted for 12.7%, Launceston 11.9%, Clarence 10.1%, Kingborough 7.8% and Glenorchy 6.6%. However, in relative terms, the proportion of volunteers per head of population per LGA revealed a very different picture: Flinders (40.8%) had the highest proportion of the population aged 15 years and over participating in unpaid voluntary work, followed by King Island (34.1%), Break O'Day (29.9%), Glamorgan/Spring Bay (27.3%) and (Tasman 27.2%). These areas are all away from

Tasmania's cities.

UNPAID VOLUNTARY WORK, by LGA, 2006



Persons aged 15 years and over, excludes not stated.

Source: Census of Population and Housing, 2006 ABS Data available on request

[Back to top](#)

DATA SOURCES

Australian Social Trends, 2007 (cat. no. 4102.0)

Births, Australia, 2006 (cat. no. 3301.0)

Census of Population and Housing

2006 Census of Population and Housing - Fact Sheets, 2006, Measures of Unpaid Work (cat. no. 2914.0)

Deaths, Australia, 2006 (cat. no. 3302.0)

[Back to top](#)

GLOSSARY

Census Dictionary, 2006 (cat. no. 2901.0)

[Back to top](#)

EXPLANATORY NOTES

1. The 2006 Census of Population and Housing was held on 8 August 2006. Australia's first Census was held in 1911 and since 1961 a Census has been taken every five years, a frequency which is specified in the **Census and Statistics Act 1905**. The objective of the Census is to count the number of people in Australia on Census night, identifying their key characteristics and those of the dwelling in which they live.
2. Unless otherwise specified, this paper includes population counts on a "place of usual

'residence' basis, that is, numbers of people usually resident in Tasmania on 8 August 2006, regardless of where they were counted on Census night. Therefore, overseas visitors are excluded.

3. Figures presented in this paper may differ from data in other Census publications which are for the most part based on 'place of enumeration', that is, the number of persons counted in Tasmania on Census night.
4. Figures presented in this paper may also differ from the ABS official estimates of the Australian and Tasmanian populations. Estimated Resident Population (ERP) figures are derived from Census usual resident counts, with adjustments to correct undercounts due to some people being missed and others being counted twice. Statistics on overseas arrivals and departures are used to estimate the number of Australian residents who are temporarily overseas on Census night and therefore not included in Census counts. The collection date of the data also differs: ERP is compiled as at 30 June of each Census year and updated quarterly between Censuses, whereas the Census was conducted on 8 August. Backdating of population estimates from 8 August to 30 June is accomplished using data from birth and death registrations, overseas arrivals and departures, and estimates of interstate migration, for the period 1 July to 8 August.
5. Census questions on Need for Assistance with Core Activities were based on the criteria used in the ABS Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers, but the population measured differed as a result of the different collection methodology and reduced question format. As such, data for this topic should be taken as an indication of the characteristics of people who reported a need for assistance, not as the total prevalence of people with a 'profound or severe core activity limitation' as represented in the survey data. The major strength of disability related data from the Census is in the ability to analyse small area and population sub-group data.
6. Formal child care is regulated child care away from the child's home. Care can be provided on a regular or casual basis and fees are charged. Informal child care is non-regulated and may be provided by friends and relatives and other individuals such as paid baby-sitters, either in the child's home or elsewhere.
7. The 2006 Census findings on Voluntary Work differ from those of the 2006 Voluntary Work Survey due to the different collection methodology used and the reduced question format. The 2006 Voluntary Work Survey was designed to provide a detailed account of volunteers and their volunteering activities in Australia. Information was obtained by a series of questions asked by trained interviewers, whereas the 2006 Census data were collected via a single question on a self-completion Census form. However, Census data are useful for looking at differences in volunteering at the small area level.

[Back to top](#)